



THE TIMES

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Tomkins may go into new field

TOMKINS, the conglomerate, is to sell the City this week that it may add a fourth leg to its three main businesses — food, manufacturing and industrial and automotive engineering.

Greg Hurdhings, chairman, is to make presentations to analysts and institutions in London tomorrow and in New York on Thursday. The meeting is mainly about Tomkins' current trading with investors concerned about its exposure to the US automotive industry, but Mr Hurdhings is also expected to give an update on strategy.

He told *The Times* that Tomkins is currently concentrating on "small acquisitions but may consider adding a fourth leg in the next three years' time. This would be in manufacturing.

Mr Hurdhings will also say that the company still intends to build a professional garden in the south of France, including the construction of a house.

Corporate Profile, page 47

ScottishPower aim

ScottishPower, the electricity company, is to buy the power plant in the north of Scotland, which is owned by the government.

US tobacco deal

A deal has been struck between the US and the UK over the sale of tobacco.

New firm's Isa

A new firm has been established in the insurance market.

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Give a second chance, says minister

Don't expel drug takers, schools told

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN who experiment with drugs should not be expelled from school automatically, teachers will be told in government guidelines to be published tomorrow.

Estelle Morris, the School Standards Minister, told independent school headmistresses yesterday that she understood parents' desire for "zero tolerance", but it was often better to give a second chance to lessen the risk of children sliding into regular usage.



Morris: no "zero tolerance"

In a speech to the Girls' Schools Association in Glasgow, Ms Morris said drug takers' welfare must be balanced against the need for punishment and the protection of the wider school community. Dealers would normally be expelled, but many head teachers would take a different view of "someone found with cannabis in their pockets".

However, Ms Morris ruled out random testing of drug-taking pupils at state schools as a condition of continued attendance. Many independent schools — no figures for expulsions were available — test pupils involved with drugs, with parents' agreement, but ministers believe legal difficulties would prove insurmountable in the state system.



"So what if teacher's coming, it's cannabis, not tobacco"

The remarks were condemned immediately by a headteachers' leader. John Dunford, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said the authority of head teachers would be undermined. "Any kind of pressure on heads in this direction is unwelcome. There is a need to give a very strong message to children. It is difficult enough to keep schools out of the drugs scene," he said.

The guidelines on drug education, produced in consultation with Keith Hellawell, the Government's "drugs czar", will aim to reduce expulsions.

Ms Morris emphasized that schools would remain free to expel even for possession. They will still be expected to report drug takers to police, although most such cases now result only in a caution. She added: "There has got to be a bottom line in drug education that taking drugs is harmful and wrong. That has always got to be the basic message."

Ms Morris added: "Drugs are a crime but they are also a welfare problem." Automatic expulsion could deprive children of support they needed to break a cycle of dependency. Once young people had been found taking drugs, it was usually too late to "sit them down and tell them not to do it", she said. Other agencies had to be brought in.

The guidelines will form part of the Government's effort to reduce exclusions by a third by 2002.

Mr Dunford said head teachers would feel trapped between parents demanding a hard line on drugs and local authorities anxious to meet targets.



A bewigged Lord Irvine of Lairg, wearing his breeches, tights and buckle shoes

Lord Chancellor told he may abandon breeches

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor yesterday won the right to wear black trousers and drop his ceremonial dress of breeches, tights and buckled shoes.

After a two-hour debate in which more than 25 peers spoke, the House of Lords voted by 145 to 115 to allow Lord Irvine of Lairg to wear the more modern attire of plain trousers and shoes. Although the decision is with immediate effect, however, he will have to wait for a few more days before he can dress down.

For Lord Irvine, a man who spent £650,000 to wallpaper his flat, an ordinary pair of black trousers is not enough. Instead, the Lord Chancellor is to order a bespoke pair costing £300 from Ede & Ravenscroft, the legal tailors in Chancery Lane. The cost will be met from his official dress allowance.

During a debate that alternated between the silly and the solemn, Lord Irvine watched from the woodcock as peers

considered his two demands: first, he should be able to update his clothes beneath the waist while keeping his day-to-day upper attire of full-bottomed wig and court gown.

Second, he should be allowed to spend more time behind the dispatch box when steering his own legislation. At present, he speaks mostly from the woodcock.

As Speaker, Lord Irvine did not contribute to the debate, but despite fervent opposition he won on both counts. As the result was announced, one peer roared the House — and the Lord Chancellor — to laughter by shouting: "When's he going to get 'em off, then?"

Although the debate was unwhipped, a high turnout on the Government benches raised suspicions that Labour peers had unofficially been encouraged to help their Lord Chancellor in his time of need.

his daily attire — at state occasions, such as next week's State Opening of Parliament.

Traditionalist peers argued that the Lord Chancellor was diminishing the stature of his office and said the plan was part of a wider government agenda to chip away at parliamentary traditions. The modernisers — from all sides of the House — said the changes were modest, did not represent the thin end of the constitutional wedge, and wondered if the debate was the most profitable way of spending vital parliamentary time.

Lord Ewing of Kirkcaldy, a former Labour MP, reminded peers that usually "you canna talk the breeks o' a highlander" like Lord Irvine but insisted he should be allowed to wear "the garb of 1998". Viscount Cranborne, the Tory leader in the Lords, argued that any changes should be left until the Government began its wider reforms of the Upper House.

£120m cash aid for farmers

Emergency aid of £120 million was announced to help British beef, sheep and dairy farmers through the worst agricultural crisis since the 1930s. There will be extra for those in hill regions, but none for pig farmers. Pages 2, 19

Cosmetics ban

British cosmetics companies will have to move their animal tests abroad following a ban. Animal welfare organisations greeted the announcement as a triumph. Page 6

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Ousting Saddam is now West's aim

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR yesterday committed Britain to working with the United States to secure the removal of President Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq.

In an apparent extension of Britain's aims in the long-running conflict with Saddam, Mr Blair said he was looking with the Americans at ways in which opposition parties could be bolstered and "improving the possibility of removing Saddam Hussein altogether."

"We want to see the Iraqi people governed by a regime other than that of Saddam Hussein," he told William Hague.

America and Britain were "literally minutes" away from launching air strikes against Iraq on Saturday. And he promised that he would have no hesitation in ordering future strikes.

"If he again obstructs the work of the inspectors, then we strike. No warnings. No wrangling. No negotiations. No last minute letters. The next withdrawal of cooperation and he will be hit."

He revealed that a private warning had been sent to President Saddam through the Iraqi permanent representative at the United Nations last Thursday that a substantial military strike was imminent.

Downing Street aide to earn more than Blair

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE drugs czar, Keith Hellawell, tops the pay league for Tony Blair's 70-strong team of political aides and special advisers, and will earn £106,057 a year from next month — more than the Prime Minister himself.

Mr Blair is entitled to £147,816 a year — this includes his MP's salary of £45,066 — but he claims just £105,233.

Mr Hellawell's salary is followed closely by Jonathan Powell, the former diplomat and now chief of staff at 10 Downing Street, and Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's official spokesman and spin doctor, who will both receive £91,014 — more than the take-home pay of a Cabinet Minister. They are entitled to earn £106,716 a year but actually claim £90,267.

given a two per cent rise in April and will receive the top-up for their new pay deals next month. The total percentage rise for the three was not disclosed last night to MPs, nor was the information available at the Cabinet Office.

The pay scales of the trio are outside the normal range for advisers brought into the Government by Ministers.

Last night Mr Campbell said he had "no idea" how much he earned and added that he merely "handed it over" to his family — his partner, Fiona Millar, and their three children.

However, several political aides received rises more than three times the inflation target set by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, and won 6.7 per cent increases — while everyone received at least 3.5 per cent, also one percentage point above the 2.5 per cent target.

The total bill in the salary of special advisers is £3.6 million, double the bill under the last Tory Government. But last night it was made clear that Ministers were not ashamed of the figures and a Cabinet Office spokeswoman said the Government had always pledged they would create a strong centre with political drive.

previously. In the past, special advisers have been paid in relation to their previous earnings.

But Ministers decided they wished to introduce salaries which recognised the individual contribution of an adviser. However, it was made clear that the salary review was "one off" and that in future advisers would not receive automatic pay rises.

Dr Jack Cunningham, Minister for the Cabinet Office, last night in a Commons written reply to MPs revealed that the average salary of a special adviser is £45,378 compared to £46,421 under the Conservatives.

One adviser works part-time and earns a significantly lower salary in the range of £10,000 to £20,000. Of the others, some 14 advisers earn between £20,000 to £30,000; 19 up to £40,000; 13 up to £50,000; 10 up to £60,000; seven up to £70,000 and three up to £80,000.

Pay levels were decided by the Ministers who employed the adviser.

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Blair performs fanfare to much trumpeted hesitation

IN the Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons on Iraq yesterday afternoon, we glimpsed a ghostly reflection of the weekend's events. As with the battle, so with the argument: steps leading logically to a strike — then no strike.

Over the weekend we watched the elements being moved into place. BS2s were readied, allies squared. Stealth bombers and Tornados were poised. Tomahawk missiles primed, warnings given.

The finger was on the but-

ton. All that now awaited was the final push. It never came.

And so with Tony Blair's long, closely argued, statement to a steady House. He wheeled his arguments into place, studied his logic on the launch-pad. Objections were countered, evidence stiffened and friends primed. Supporting arguments were ready on the runway.

The Prime Minister placed a mental finger on the logical button. Well into his Statement, all that now awaited was the final push. It never came.

The statement, much of it, could have been drafted for the moment of attack. For seven years, declared a tired, notable but resolute PM, the Iraqis had ratted on every obligation. "Iraq has deceived and concealed and lied at every turn." There was no trusting these people. "Huge questions remain." The United Nations Weapons Inspectors have proved powerless: "despite UNSCOM, Iraq still has weapons of mass destruction." The last time we trusted them, we had been betrayed: "Iraq ... resumed superficial

co-operation" but then thwarted "all but the most routine monitoring".

And they had been warned — "that any violation would have the most serious consequences for Iraq".

Now they were asking for it — "in flagrant violation of Iraq's obligations". A private warning had already been given — The argument was clear

and strong. Those with texts noted that the Prime Minister was already nearing the end of his statement. There was only one destination to this logic, as clear as the location of Baghdad on a Stealth pilot's map: Saddam had proved himself an inveterate cheat, and invited the response already promised. There was just no point in con-

tinuing this diplomatic nonsense with Hussein.

Mr Blair drew breath and continued. We were to continue this diplomatic nonsense with Hussein.

Yesterday's statement took a convincing run at a logical long-jump then, just before lift-off, aborted. The statement could have served as a trumpet-blast heralding attack; instead it served as fanfare to hesitation.

Oddly, it was the stronger for that. Doubters (and the Commons contains many silent doubters) were reassured

that Britain and America were going the extra mile. The handful implacably opposed to force, poised to rail against aggression, were winded: Blair was giving the other fellow yet another chance. Only Labour's George Galloway implicitly accused by his senior colleague Gerald Kaufman of being among those who "habitually toddle off to Baghdad to get their skins tanned and their noses browned" managed a fine and stirring intervention.

But the mood of the House was against him. It has

changed, critically, since February. Yesterday's statement, a *reculer pour mieux sauter* if ever there was one, confirmed that. "Thank goodness they're there," said Blair of the Americans, "even if others aren't." He sounded just like Lady Thatcher.

There was one light moment. Future video-archivists, unfamiliar with today's idiom, may wonder why, when Tony Blair said "I mean, this isn't over until ..." and paused. Three hundred small grins registered the thought "... the fat lady sings".



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Hard-pressed farmers get aid of £120m

EMERGENCY aid of £120 million was announced yesterday to help Britain's farmers come through the worst crisis in agriculture since the 1930s.

The cash, targeted at beef, sheep and dairy farmers, with extra support for those in hill regions, is intended to cushion the effects of a collapse in the prices of almost all agricultural produce.

There is, however, no succour for pig farming, which is struggling against competition from cheap imports sucked in by the strong pound and is one of the few unsubsidised sectors of European agriculture.

To a chorus of cheers in the Commons, Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, said he was announcing the aid in recognition of "the exceptionally difficult times" that farmers were going through.

"I know the industry has been going through a bad patch," he said. "But I am confident that it has a prosperous future. To get there it needs our support now, and that is what I am providing."

He added: "Trading conditions will remain tough in the months ahead. But I hope that this package and the commitment to generating a vision for agriculture will give the industry the boost it needs to face the future with confidence."

Nick Brown recognises the crisis hitting British farms, writes Michael Hornsby

important cause of falling farm income than the weather."

Ben Gill, president of the National Farmers' Union, said the aid package would provide a welcome confidence boost and "a short-term safety net for some farmers teetering on the brink of financial collapse".

He added: "The package itself cannot cure all the ills of British farmers, particularly, for instance, in the pig sector. We need continued government and Bank of England action to put downward pressure on interest rates and sterling."

The two main elements of the package are £60 million in extra support for hill farmers, which will be funded entirely from government coffers, and £48.3 million for beef farmers, about a third of which will be paid for by the EU. The aid to beef farmers will mean an extra subsidy of £29.50 a cow.

A third element is a reprieve for special payments to farmers to slaughter and destroy within three weeks of birth male calves which have no market because of the ban on exports. These subsidies had been due to end on November 30 but will now continue until at least the end of next March. By that time some beef exports should have resumed.



Relaxed: Camilla Parker Bowles out hunting yesterday

Cheerful Camilla enjoys media glare

CAMILLA Parker Bowles ended her self-imposed media purdah yesterday and smiled for photographers before riding with the Beaufort Hunt (writes Simon de Bruxelles).

The unprecedented and willing co-operation by the friend of the Prince of Wales was a

contrast to previous encounters when she has grimaced through cigarette smoke and ridden off in the opposite direction.

Mrs Parker Bowles stopped her horse and sat for pictures after a groom from Prince Charles's, Highgrove stables approached press photographers.

Fresh from hosting the Prince's 50th birthday party at Highgrove on Saturday night, she looked relaxed and cheerful as she rode out to join the hunt.

The Highgrove groom approached photographers and said: "She will pose for you today," before Mrs Parker Bowles sat back in the saddle, rested her left hand on her left thigh and turned on a beaming smile.

Ashdown pacifies his party activists

BY ROLAND WATSON
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY ASHDOWN last night told his party activists they retained the licence to fight Labour tooth and nail in spite of his strengthened links with the Government.

The Liberal Democrat leader said that last week's announcement that he was to deepen cross-party co-operation over a range of issues with Tony Blair need not clip his party's wings. "This is not about pulling punches," he told the party's Federal Executive after aides warned him of a rough ride ahead.

Mr Ashdown told the Liberal Democrats' ruling body that they risked jeopardising the greater prize of proportional representation unless they supported the new deal. He said the country would not support PR and its ramifications for coalition government as a concept unless they were given an example of successful partnership politics in action.

"You cannot argue or indeed campaign for PR and object to the co-operative style of politics which it will usher in," Mr Ashdown told them. He and Mr Blair announced last week that the Joint Consultative Committee between senior Cabinet ministers and their Liberal Democrat counterparts would be extended to cover Europe, welfare reform, education and health.

Downing Street was forced to play down reports that John Prescott was furious with the development. But Jack Cunningham, the Cabinet Office minister and Downing Street "enforcer", appeared to confirm that the Deputy Prime Minister had not been consulted, saying the decision had been taken by Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown some weeks ago.

Ruth Berry, a Lib Dem executive member, said the latest move could prove a "step too far". "There may be a lot of people who are very upset and very angry."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Aircraft on standby for new year riots

Military aircraft will ferry police reinforcements to trouble spots if millennium celebrations deteriorate into rioting. Large helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft will be on standby as part of contingency plans for the millennium being drawn up by chief constables and the military. Specialist servicemen may also help to run utilities and public transport if civilian manpower is severely depleted by absenteeism or sickness. The talks follow concern among senior police officers at the problems they could face during a national four-day celebration.

Threat to legal aid

Small legal aid firms who work in black and Asian communities will be hit hardest by government plans for contracting-out legal aid work, the Law Society said yesterday. The plans would "drastically reduce the availability of legal help in some of the most disadvantaged communities in England and Wales," the society said. The plans would also disproportionately disadvantage women solicitors.

Church criticises BBC

The Church of England has added to the growing criticism of the changes to BBC Radio 4. Members of the General Synod, meeting in London, claimed that religious programmes had been marginalised, leading to a loss of listeners. A church review is already pursuing complaints that broadcast services have been cut and changed such that they no longer reflect normal congregational worship.

'No disarming, no exit'

Tory leaders increased pressure for the release of terrorist prisoners to be halted unless and until the IRA begins disarming, Michael Ancram, the party chairman, joined William Hague, the leader, and Andrew MacKay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, in demanding: "No decommissioning, no exit." Mo Mowlam, Northern Ireland Secretary, said she could not "rewrite the Good Friday Agreement".

Tories target taxes

The Tories are to draw up new tax policies to favour married couples as part of a drive to promote the family, William Hague declared last night. The Tory leader used a keynote speech to the Conservative Christian Fellowship to announce that Peter Lilley would head up a new Shadow Cabinet taskforce on family policy. The group will study both tax and benefits to see if changes can be made.

Lewinsky books author

Monica Lewinsky has secured a deal with Andrew Morton, the biographer of Diana, Princess of Wales, for a confessional book disclosing the details of her relationship with President Clinton. Michael O'Mara, who bought the worldwide rights, said: "She likes the idea of an author who is used to writing sympathetic books about women who have relationships with powerful men."

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Ousting

Continued from page 1

No timing was given, but no doubt was left as to the scale of what was intended.

Mr Blair said he gave final authorisation for the start of the attack on Saturday morning. Just two hours before it was due to commence, the West received word that the Iraqis had informed the UN that they were responding positively to a final letter of appeal the previous night.

Mr Blair said he had authorised the use of force with regret and a deep sense of responsibility.

"I saw no credible alternative. The UK's weight in the planned strike would have been substantial, including nearly 20 per cent of the tactical bomber effort."

Downing Street said later that Mr Blair's words reflected the view that Iraq, the region and the world would be better off if Saddam was not in power.

A spokesman suggested that Britain and America would work together to help in the propaganda war against Saddam, both within Iraq and abroad, by funding dissident radio stations.

President Clinton said yesterday that he would support a change of government in Iraq, and Mr Blair told the Commons that he shared the President's view, adding that the desire to remove Saddam was not a "goal of policy". The goal of policy was to diminish and degrade the capability in weapons of mass destruction, he said.

The Prime Minister said the world could now see more clearly than ever that Saddam was intimidated by the threat of force.

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Michael Gove, page 18
Letters, page 19



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Close the road? That's a bit rich

Privacy for celebrities is a nuisance for old-money neighbours, report Susie Steiner and Rachel Kelly

A VITAL question of lifestyle has created a neighbourhood dispute between the super-rich and the merely wealthy. New arrivals buying £3million properties want to keep the world away by closing off the street. Older residents with £1million homes say that is just being greedy.

The argument in Kensington, West London, began when developers sought permission to close Earls Terrace to traffic, and install security gates with armed guards for pedestrian access. It was just the sort of paparazzi-proof privacy to lure buyers from among nouveau-riches celebrities, Arab sheikhs and footballers.

However, the site borders Edwardes Square, where their neighbours include retired judges and architects who quite like the right of way and do not want the change. One resident said: "It seems absolutely greedy to want a private road. It's over the top."

At the centre of the argument is a refurbished terrace of 23 homes with individual swimming pools and cinemas. The developers Northacre claim that their critics, including the former law lord Baron Griffiths of Govilon, are driven by "the politics of envy".

The pop singer Madonna visited the site a few months ago but decided against it. Concern for the privacy and security for similar clients led the developers to seek to bar traffic from the road that has been a public right of way for more than 100 years and is used by visitors to the cinema and shops on Kensington High Street.



Buyers need not use the front doors in Earls Terrace, Kensington: access from the underground car park ensures privacy — at extra cost. Below: music speakers are hidden in walls, lighting can be programmed for entertaining, reading or vacation, and each house has a swimming pool



Pool included, but parking costs £50,000

room with cinema. At the touch of a keypad, the curtains close, the screen rolls down and a projector is lowered from the ceiling. The houses are fitted with invisible sound systems, allowing music to seep from speakers embedded in the walls. Electronic systems are integrated, allowing busy celebrities to program their videos from their carphones. Lighting is labelled for different occasions. The occupier can choose from Entertain, Reading or Vacation to create "the appropriately enhanced atmosphere".

While ordinary folk might have a timer for the hallway lamp, these homeowners can have their security systems memorise the pattern in which they turn on their lights and replicate it when they are away. Homeowners "will be able to enjoy an exceptional level of privacy", says the brochure. An underground car park, fenced off by huge iron grilles, ensures direct access to the properties. The price of a space is £50,000. The gates are opened by each resident's personal radar device. A 24-hour guard ensures vehicles safe passage down the ramp, while security cameras monitor the inside of the car park and the doors into houses.

7ft man 'killed Wren during epileptic fit'

BY SIMON DE BRUKELLES

A MAN accused of strangling a young Wren claimed that he killed her while he was having an epileptic fit, a court was told yesterday.



Tammy Williams died after a night out

Steven Smith, 31, told police that all he could remember was taking Tammy Williams, 23, back to his flat for a night-cap.

Mr Smith, who is 7ft tall, claims he then suffered an epileptic fit and smothered the Royal Navy photographer as she lay half on his bed and half on the floor.

But Anthony Donne, QC, for the prosecution, told Plymouth Crown Court: "This killing had nothing to do with epilepsy at all."

Mr Donne said that Mr Smith bundled the Wren into his flat and, after killing her, put her in a cupboard. A post-mortem examination revealed that she died from asphyxia after being suffocated.

He said the pathologist's opinion was that she had been forced down on to the back of the sofa and held there with force for long enough to stop her breathing.

Mr Donne said: "There was no evidence of intercourse either having taken place or being attempted. There were

some injuries to her mouth and nose and some fine cuts to her chest from a sharp object. There was also a mark on her neck similar to that left by a ligature — thought to have been braid from the sofa." Mr Donne said that hours later Mr Smith told his friend James Tennant: "I have killed a girl." Mr Tennant said: "I thought he was the worse for drink and fantasising. I said, 'Who is the girl?' And he said, 'She is in the cupboard — what shall I do?'"

Mr Smith allegedly told Adrian Adams, another friend, that he had been in a fight and thought he had killed someone and had a fit during the fight.

He also told his parents he met Miss Williams in a nightclub and took her back to his flat, where they had sex. He allegedly told his father they had a row and she fell over the back of his sofa and did not get up again.

Mr Smith later went to Plymouth police station and said he had invited the Wren home for coffee. He told them while there he had an epileptic fit and came to after noon the next day and found her dead. When he was asked if he killed her, he replied: "I had a fit and don't remember."

Mr Donne said that Mr Smith had a medical history of epilepsy and suffered seizures as a child, but nonetheless he rejected his story.

BA victory over glass claim by passenger

AN EXTRAORDINARY one-man campaign against British Airways took another twist yesterday when John Gorman, a retired policeman who claimed he had swallowed two shards of glass on a flight from London to New York, lost his claim for damages against the airline.

After five years of accusations against the company, including corporate bullying and tampering with evidence, a judge dismissed his personal injury claim and ordered him to pay British Airways's costs.

After the hearing, Mr Gorman claimed the case, which cost him £53,000, had left him penniless. He said: "I have staked my entire life savings on trying to win this trial. I only have a policeman's pension and a small house in the Canary Islands with which to fight this massive corporation."

Mr Gorman alleged that British Airways had orchestrated a "dirty tricks" campaign against him after he complained that he had been injured by the broken glass on the flight in January 1993. Judge Anthony Tibber accused him of inventing the allegation.

Why BBC found Abba too radical

BY CAROL MIDGLEY MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC has found itself listed alongside Stalin and Taliban in a book naming regimes that have banned politically sensitive music.

The corporation's decision to censor pop songs such as Army Dreamers and Walk Like An Egyptian from the airwaves during the Gulf War has earned it equal billing to more radical censors such as Stalin, who suppressed Shostakovich's work in the 1930s, and Taliban, which prohibits all music in the 20th century. Last night, Index on Censorship — the freedom of speech group that published

the book *Smashed Hits* — staged a concert of banned music led by the conductor Simon Rattle at the Union Chapel in North London. The performance ranged from Alan Bush, the British communist whom Rattle says was deprived of performance because of his politics, to Olivier Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*, written when he was imprisoned in Stalag VIII during the Holocaust.

But *Smashed Hits* also lists pop songs that have been subjected to the BBC censor's rule. It states that, during World War II, the song *Deep in the Heart of Texas* was vetoed from BBC radio play on the grounds that munitions workers too often downed tools to join in the clapping. Wagner and other "overtly Germanic" music was "effectively banned", says the book. In the 1970s, McGuinness Flint's anti-internment song *Let the People Go* was banned because of government policy on the IRA.

But it was pop songs banned by the BBC during the Gulf War that have merited their own chapter in the book. The BBC Radio Training Unit compiled a list of records that it believed should be treated with caution to avoid offence. They included Abba's Eurovision song contest winner *Waterloo*, because of its reference to war, Lulu's *Boom-Bang-A-Bang*, A-ha's *Hunting High and Low*, José Feliciano's *Light My Fire*, Nicole's *A Little Peace and Tears For Fears'* *Everybody Wants to Rule the World*.

POLICE INTERVIEW TAPES SOLD TO PERVERTS. IS THE MET SO HARD UP?

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TV FROM THE HEART

Women call for action over failed surgeon

MINISTERS were urged last night to order a public inquiry into the career of an incompetent surgeon who may have maimed up to 180 patients before colleagues blew the whistle on his failings.

Victims of the gynaecologist Rodney Ledward, who was struck off the medical register in September, said an independent team was needed to investigate how he was allowed to continue practising for more than a decade, even though one in three of his operations resulted in serious complications.

Patients seek compensation for botched operations, reports Mark Henderson

At least 40 are considering legal action, and East Kent Health Authority and Mr Ledward's insurers, for his private work, could face a combined bill of more than £1 million in compensation. Individual payouts could top £30,000 in cases where young women were denied the chance to have children because of unnecessary hysterectomies.

Campaigners said there were parallels between Mr Ledward's case and that of the Bristol Royal Infirmary heart surgeons found guilty in June of serious professional misconduct for continuing to operate when their death rates were well above average. Ian Kennedy, Professor of Medical Law and Ethics at University College, London, began a public inquiry into that matter last month.

Health chiefs were due last

night to attend a public meeting in Folkestone organised by the community health council to explain their side of the story to the victims. They were expected to face strong criticism for failing to act on suspicions raised by Mr Ledward's senior colleagues in 1993, and failing to investigate his work properly after negligence writs were issued against him as long ago as 1987.

Mr Ledward was eventually suspended in 1996 after a botched hysterectomy in which he accidentally pierced his patient's bladder. Although she had blood in her urine, he left the hospital and switched off his mobile phone, and was out of reach while she had emergency surgery to repair the damage.

Patricia Fearnley, a solicitor acting for at least 35 victims who are seeking compensation, said that urgent action was needed to ensure that lessons of the case were learnt. "We need to see examined the issue of unnecessary operations on women, the lack of proper regulation of private sector medicine and the problem of doctors being unwilling to blow the whistle on incompetent colleagues. We want to know why Mr Ledward was allowed to carry on operating even though his record was very poor." Mr Ledward is now thought to be working in the Middle East.



Struck off: Rodney Ledward, who allegedly boasted of being the fastest gynaecologist in the South East

Patient was left 'crying in pain'

By HELEN RUMBELOW

RODNEY LEDWARD blamed Susan Martin, 45, for his botched operation on her bladder, saying that she was old and her muscles were "knackered".

She was left crying in pain for 17 days before he performed another unsuccessful operation to try to correct his mistakes. She was left with so much scar tissue that she had to have a hysterectomy.

"I still can't believe I was so gullible. When someone is in that position of authority you just trust them. I had gone in to make a small problem better so I could

enjoy playing sport. Afterwards I felt totally disabled," she said.

Mrs Martin, from Deal in Kent, became slightly incontinent when she played netball or did aerobics after having had three children. She was referred to Mr Ledward, who she said spent minutes asking her questions then said he would "operate on her waterworks problem but if everything else comes down during surgery it is unhealthy and I will do a vacuum hysterectomy at the same time".

He did not examine her.

Three weeks after her operation in March 1990 she had still made no recovery

in hospital. Eventually nurses told her she had to confront Mr Ledward and demand an explanation.

He came to her bedside and told her that it was her fault she could no longer pass water. He said her muscles were "knackered" with age and because she had been too old to have a baby at 32. "He said, 'I've done such a good job your husband will think he's taken a 16-year-old home.'"

She eventually visited another gynaecologist who helped her but she still cannot play sports. "What Mr Ledward did was damage a good bladder," she said.

Ageist employers are at risk of being called to account

EMPLOYERS who discriminate against workers or job applicants on the ground of their age will have to defend their actions to employment tribunals under government proposals to combat ageism in the workplace.

Andrew Smith, the Employment Minister, is to ask chairmen of the tribunals to consider taking on the extra responsibility of enforcing a government-backed voluntary anti-ageism code.

Launching a draft version of the code yesterday, Mr Smith said that discrimination against older work-

Tribunals offered new role in giving older workers a chance, reports Alexandra Frean

ers was no longer acceptable. He added that there was a strong case for companies to ensure that they had a mix of workers of all ages. "It is not a question of employers saying that they cannot afford to keep on older employees. They cannot afford not to," he said. "In two years more than a third of the workforce will be aged over 45. An increasing proportion of companies' customer base will also be over 45."

His remarks yesterday followed

the publication of a report from the Employers' Federation on Age, a lobby group representing more than 100 big employers, claiming that ageism is costing the British economy £26 billion a year in lost goods and services.

The draft code covers recruitment, retirement and promotion, and urges employers to treat staff according to ability, not age.

It asks companies:

- Not to use age limits or phrases

such as "young graduates" in job adverts.

- To use mixed-age interviewing panels.
- To promote staff on merit, irrespective of age.
- To consider offering job-sharing or career breaks as an alternative to redundancy.

Lady Greengross, director general of the charity Age Concern, welcomed the code as an important first step, but added that only legislation

would effectively outlaw ageism. "With a recession predicted next year, even more older people will be in fear of losing their jobs and never working again. These people need to know that the law is on their side," she said.

The Public and Commercial Services Union, the biggest civil service union, urged the Government to "get its own house in order". A spokesman said that thousands of staff who joined the service late in

life wanted to continue working until 65 to earn a decent pension, but were forced to retire at 60.

The Government will consult on the code before it becomes effective in the new year.

The Age Discrimination and Employment Act of 1967 prohibits discriminating against anyone over 40, and employers can face huge damages claims if they break the law.

Earlier this year the Government ordered jobcentres to ban upper age limits in recruitment adverts and launched an employment programme for the over-50s.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Children set fire to school bus

Twenty-seven schoolchildren were taken to hospital after a bus seat was set on fire yesterday. They were treated for smoke inhalation but one was seriously injured and all were allowed home.

The incident happened on a school bus at John Kyrle High School in Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire. Two pupils, aged 14 and 15, were arrested, questioned and released on police bail.

Police said it seemed that they had been playing with a cigarette lighter and an aerosol on the back seat.

Search for body

Police are picking through thousands of tonnes of rubbish in search of the body of a baby dumped in a bin three weeks ago by its mother, an 18-year-old student in Cavan in the Irish Republic. She believed her child was stillborn.

Train crash

A night train from London to Inverness with 95 passengers crashed into two stolen vans left on the line at Slatford Junction, near Edinburgh. The driver was treated for shock. Services were disrupted for most of the day.

Davies suspect

A man accused of robbing Ron Davies, the former Secretary of State for Wales, has been remanded in custody by Camberwell Green magistrates, Donald Fearon, 38, of no fixed address, is due in court again on November 30.

World Cup sale

The ball in play at the end of France's World Cup final victory is to be sold at Christie's in Glasgow next month. Bobby Moore's shirt from a match against Portugal in 1964 and a corner flag from the 1966 World Cup are also for sale.

Otter aid begins

Others are being encouraged to return to the country's rivers in a project launched today with the backing of water companies. A holt has been built near Stoke Bardolph, Nottingham, one of a network throughout the region.

Deal to see

Hyde Park bomb jury misled judges told

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Children set fire to school bus

Twenty-seven schoolchildren were taken to hospital after a bus set on fire yesterday. They were treated for smoke inhalation but none was seriously injured and all were allowed home.

Search for body

Police are picking through thousands of tonnes of rubbish in search of the body of a baby dumped in a bin three weeks ago by its mother.

Train crash

A high-speed train from London to Paris with 45 passengers crashed into two stolen cars on the line at Sladeham near Epsom.

Davies suspect

Police are investigating the possibility that a man named Davies was involved in a recent robbery.

World Cup sale

The World Cup has been sold to a consortium of companies for the next four years.

Other aid begins

Humanitarian aid is beginning to reach the victims of the recent conflict.

Deal helps Man Utd to seek next Ronaldo

Belgian link will let Britain's richest club exploit a loophole over foreign players, reports Richard Duce



Ronaldo: United can now seek his young successor

MANCHESTER UNITED, Britain's wealthiest football club, yesterday completed a move to exploit a loophole in European employment laws that will help it to recruit emerging stars from South America and Africa.

United is already under scrutiny from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission after the proposed buyout by BSkyB, an associate company of The News Corporation, which owns The Times, and the latest move is likely to attract the attention of Fifa, football's governing body.



Oldest zoo bird dies alone after 52 years

A HORNBILL named Josephine, one of the oldest animals in London Zoo, has died. It was thought to be 52, making it the zoo's oldest bird.

Hyde Park bomb jury misled, judges told

A JURY was knowingly misled by the prosecution in the case of the 1982 Hyde Park bombing, which killed four Household Cavalry and seven horses, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Search for a key to car lock mystery

MOTORISTS in a Cotswold town have been finding themselves locked out of their cars because of a mysterious failure of their remote control keys.

Advertisement for Compaq computers featuring Intel Pentium II processors. Includes details for Deskpro EP 6350 and Armada 7400 6300T models, listing specifications like processor speed, RAM, and hard drive. Also features a '£125 cash back' offer.

Advertisement for Direct Line car insurance. Text: 'We'll do the rescuing while you do the saving.' Lists prices for AA (£126), RAC (£136), and Direct Line (£38*). Includes phone number 0181 253 8118 and website www.directline.com.

Vertical advertisement for The Royal Bank of Scotland. Text: 'MOST OF YOU HAVE YOURSELF.' Includes phone number 161616 and logo.

Firms will sidestep cosmetics test ban

The industry will move its operations abroad, reports Nigel Hawkes

BRITISH cosmetic companies will have to move their animals tests abroad in response to a ban announced yesterday by the Government.

The industry is unlikely to suffer, since the number of such tests in Britain had dwindled to no more than a trickle — 1,266 last year. The decision to ban them was nevertheless greeted by animal welfare organisations as a triumph.

By voluntary agreement, the companies holding licences to carry out such tests have given them up and no more would be issued. George Howarth, the Home Office Minister, said:

Legislation does not allow the Government to revoke those licences, which would in any case run out in 2002. But the ingredients must still be tested, by law, so now the tests will have to be done somewhere else. Penny Hawkins, the RSPCA's scientific officer, said: "It's becoming increasingly easy for organisations to just move their testing abroad, to the United States and Japan

as well as the EU. It's so easy to export welfare problems for the sake of making the UK look good."

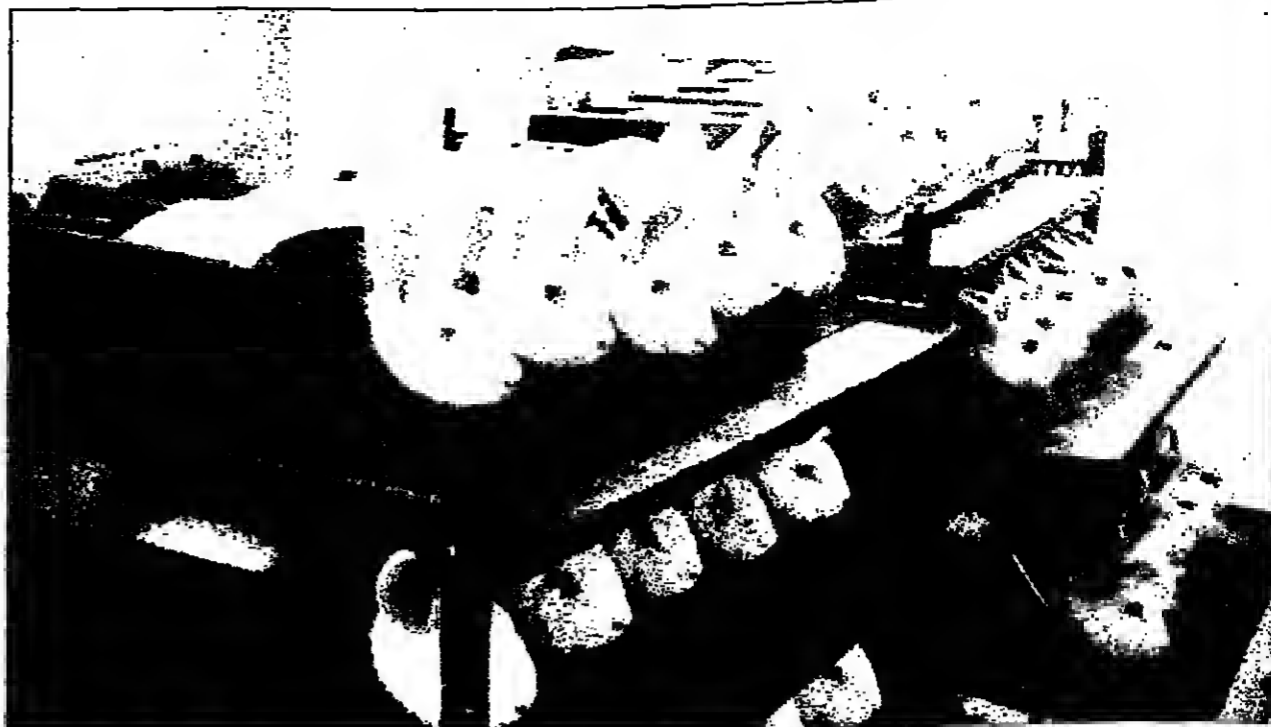
There are already far more tests carried out in Europe than in Britain — 30,000 last year compared with 1,266

here. Cosmetics testing amounts to a fraction of 1 per cent of the 2.7 million experiments a year involving animals in Britain, most of which are used for drug development, the treatment of disease, or in basic biological and medical

research. The British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection said it was "ecstatic" at the ban on cosmetic-ingredient testing, which follows an 11-year campaign. Sandy Dodds of the union said: "Now we are going to argue vigorously in Europe for a ban on cosmetic testing there, too."

The number of tests in Britain was so small, cosmetic company experts said, that it no longer amounted to a viable business. Ten years ago more than 15,000 tests were carried out. The ban, symbolic as it may be, will change little. Legislation means that all new chemicals must be tested to provide basic data about toxicity, skin irritation, ability to cause mutations and cancer, skin absorption and other data. That applies to chemicals used in household products such as detergents just as much as it does to cosmetics.

For some cosmetic ingredients, further tests may be demanded. Sun filters, for example, must be cleared for that



Rabbits held in stocks for cosmetic eye irritation tests. Such testing has dwindled here over the past ten years

Mice	1,815,907
Rats	690,541
Birds	119,092
Fish	118,918
Guinea-pigs	83,246
Rabbits	31,833
Sheep, cattle, pigs	28,616
Cats, dogs	26,338
Hamsters, gerbils, other rodents	18,400
Development of medical/dental products and appliances 945,420	
Development of veterinary products and appliances 180,179	
Fundamental studies of body structure/function 829,414	
Protection of man, animals, environment (safety testing) 201,024	
Breeding for genetic defects or modified genes 438,960	
Other (education/training, diagnosis, production) 62,978	
TOTAL NUMBER OF PROCEDURES CARRIED OUT 2,636,968	

purpose before they can be used. When a new material is developed that may be used in cosmetics, the chemical company responsible for it would carry out such tests.

To keep consumers happy, the British cosmetics industry has not tested finished products on animals for some years, and usually picks ingredients that have been in use for some time — which means

that they have been tested, but some time ago.

In a letter to Roger Gale, Conservative MP for Thanet North, Mr Howarth said that the Government had not ruled out appointing a Royal Commission to review the issue "in the longer term", but that it believed it best to use available resources to make immediate improvements to sections of the Act covering animal tests.

Lobbyists switch their attention to genetic research

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

ANIMAL welfare organisations were looking towards their next targets yesterday, having achieved the ban on cosmetic testing in Britain.

The first said Sandy Dodds, of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, was extending the cosmetics testing ban to Europe. "We would like to see a EU-wide ban on the sale of all cosmetics tested on animals," he said. The rules of the World Trade Organisation are likely to make that impossible, so a more limited ban, on testing within the EU, may be sought.

Another target likely to win public support is the widening of the ban on the use of great apes to include other primates, such as monkeys. However, monkeys are irreplaceable in some experiments, such as tests for Aids vaccines.

In toxicity testing, the LD50 test is a particular target. This is a test to discover what dose of a chemical will kill half the animals exposed to it. It produces highly variable results and critics say that it is of dubious value. Although the trend in animal testing is down-

wards, the big growth area is in genetic research. The development of "knockout" mice, in which one gene is inactivated, has provided a new tool for scientists, who use such mice to study the role of particular genes. The use of animals in genetic research has grown seven-fold in the past five years. "This is a major concern to us," said Mr Dodds.

Many campaigners argue that alternatives to animal tests exist, in the form of computer simulations and cell cultures. Scientists are keen to use such techniques, but they do not yet provide all the answers. "Much as we would like them to be, if the alternatives just aren't there, they aren't there," said Penny Hawkins, the RSPCA's scientific officer. "With much of the fundamental research, examining how drugs will be taken in and metabolised, the only alternative is not to do it."

"And we are living in a society that demands drugs. We have to weigh up the costs to the animals involved against the benefits to human beings of having new drugs."

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Tyneside opera house offers echo of Sydney

BY PAUL WILKINSON

GATESHEAD is to add a touch of Sydney to Tyneside with a £60 million riverside music centre that recalls the shape of the Opera House. Designs by Sir Norman Foster for the building, which will dominate the Gateshead side of the river, were unveiled yesterday and will be put to the Arts Council for funding early next year.

The design for the Gateshead Music Centre is reminiscent of the yacht-sail shapes of the Sydney Opera House, which stands beside a version of the Tyne Bridge. The designers of the music centre claim that its three "ripples" mirror the bridge's famous curve. The

Arts Council has already indicated that the project has a high priority, along with refurbishments of the Royal Shakespeare Company's theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon and the South Bank complex.

The project team is led by Gateshead council; its public arts programme has already produced the giant Angel of the North sculpture. The new building is part of a £100 million-plus scheme to create an international visual and musical centre of excellence in the North East.

Work has already begun on the £46 million refurbishment of the nearby Baltic Flour Mills, a disused 1940s multi-

storey grain store, which dominates the southern bank of the Tyne. It is being converted into the largest contemporary visual arts gallery outside London.

Both will be linked to the new Quayside quarter across the river in Newcastle by a footbridge, funded by the Millennium Commission and intended to open by the turn of the century. Its design allows the bridge to pivot upwards to allow ships to pass beneath. The entire complex is expected to create 1,000 jobs.

The music centre, which will provide a permanent home for the Northern Sinfonia orchestra, comprises seven buildings under one roof. It



An artist's impression of the £60 million Gateshead Music Centre, designed by Sir Norman Foster. The building could be completed by 2002

will provide a 1,650-seat concert hall, another 400-seater multi-purpose hall, a large rehearsal hall and a music school.

There will also be a regional music information centre and facilities for the Sinfonia and the Folkworks organisation, which brings together all forms of professional and amateur music-making in the region, from folk to classical. All

will be linked by a glass-fronted public concourse with views across the river. The information centre will be open 16 hours a day, along with a café bar, box office and shops. Up to 500,000 visitors a year are expected. If the funding is granted as planned by next summer, the building should be completed by 2002.

George Gill, the leader of Gateshead council, said: "We

will have a building which not only ranks as one of the best in the world for music, but will also be a breathtaking new landmark for the North East.

"It's going to be an international site and I'm delighted with the plans. It's something the region has been crying out for for the last 50 years.

Tony Pender, chairman of the trust that will run the new centre, said: "It's about com-

posing music, performing music, listening to music, learning about music and joining in. It will be a building with open doors — a living breathing building which will be buzzing with activity."

John Summers, chief executive of Northern Sinfonia, said: "Not only will this groundbreaking centre fulfil a long-held dream by finally providing a much-needed world-class

venue for Northern Sinfonia, but it will also open up endless opportunities for the orchestra to work on a day-to-day basis with the community in which it serves."

Andrew Dixon, chief executive of Northern Arts, said: "Like the Angel of the North, it will stand as a symbol of Northern Arts' ambitions for the North to be seen as a home for world-class arts projects."

Norman's conquest and the reshaping of modern Britain

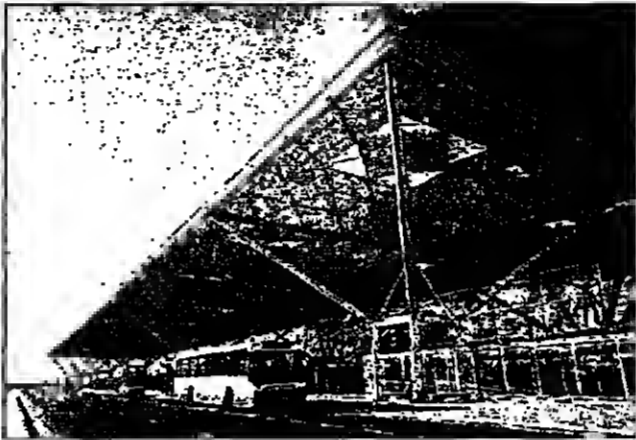
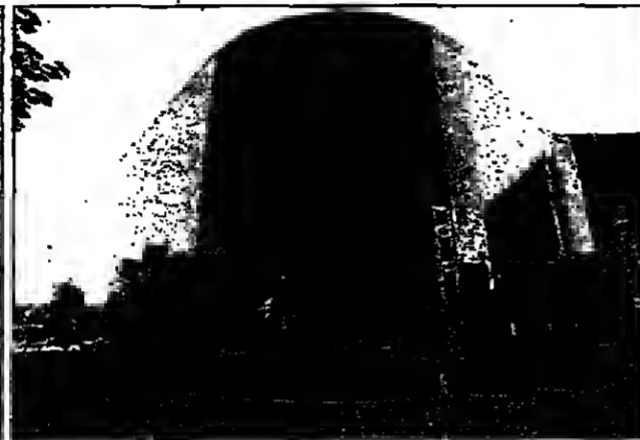
BY DOMINIC KENNEDY AND MARCUS BINNEY

THE Fosterisation of Britain continues apace, as the world's most commissioned architect seizes the chances offered by the National Lottery building boom.

As well as the new concert hall in Gateshead, Sir Norman Foster is creating a Great Court at the British Museum and a millennium footbridge linking St Paul's and Bankside in London. Both are largely paid for by the Millennium Commission, using lottery players' money.

Near the Dome, designed by his great rival Lord Rogers of Riverside, Sir Norman has built the breathtaking North Greenwich interchange, where visitors will arrive for the exhibition. Two of his ideas, a motorway sign system and a wind energy generator, as Millennium Products for possible display in the Dome.

Sir Norman's steel and glass designs were once main-



Sir Norman Foster and some of his innovative British projects: the Willis Faber and Dumas building in Ipswich, Stansted airport in Essex and the American Air Museum at Duxford, Cambridgeshire

ly used for business landmarks such as the billion-dollar Hongkong and Shanghai Bank skyscraper, the most expensive building of the 1980s. In Britain, his reputation for creating exciting corporate headquarters was sealed with the Willis Faber and Dumas head office, now a listed building, in Ipswich. He also creat-

ed the futuristic ITN headquarters in Gray's Inn Road, London.

The success of his Stansted airport design helped him to win the commission for the new Hoog Kong international airport, the world's largest construction project.

But he is increasingly moving towards creating temples

of art. His Carré d'Art in Nîmes, France, was praised for bringing modern architecture into a sensitive cityscape, opposite a Roman temple. In Valencia, home of the architect Santiago Calatrava, it was Sir Norman who won the contract to design a new Palace of Congresses, shaped like an African war shield. His success

is a victory for sleek modernism. It leaves the Prince of Wales's crusade to bury modern architecture as doomed as the twin towers of Wembley Stadium, which are likely to be demolished in Foster's redesign.

His architectural practice earns plaudits as well as contracts. The saucer-shaped con-

crete and glass American Air Museum, opened at Duxford aerodrome near Cambridge last year, won a Building of the Year award.

Nobody can imagine Sir Norman saying that he is too busy to accept a commission. He owns the bulk of shares in the architectural practice Foster and Partners and makes

some individual contribution to each project won.

Continental Europe is becoming Fosterised too. He has converted a power station in the Ruhr into a museum of design while keeping original features like electricity generators, pipes and iron staircases. A 1.5-mile road bridge spanning the Tarn valley at Mil-

lau, regarded as the last great European engineering challenge of the century, is his.

And while Lord Rogers was chosen to build the bome of the Welsh assembly in Cardiff, Sir Norman went one better. He woo the contract to rebuild the Reichstag, housing the parliament of Europe's most powerful nation.

Girls' h
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John O'Leary



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Girls' head stands up for single mothers

John O'Leary reports on a call for more flexibility in child-rearing

SINGLE parents are just as capable of bringing up children successfully as traditional families, the leader of Britain's top girls' schools said yesterday.

Jackie Anderson, the president of the Girls' Schools Association, cited Elizabeth I and Cherie Blair as examples of well-adjusted figures brought up in unconventional households. She said children would survive marital break-up if both parents continued to play a role in their upbringing.

Mrs Anderson, the headmistress of King's High School, Warwick, told the association's annual conference that most girls still wanted to marry and provide a stable environment for their children.

But they were determined to pursue a career and might postpone motherhood indefinitely if they felt the pressure of work was too great. "Society needs to be more flexible to enable them to keep their careers going and still enjoy their children," she said.

Mrs Anderson's positive view of single parents con-

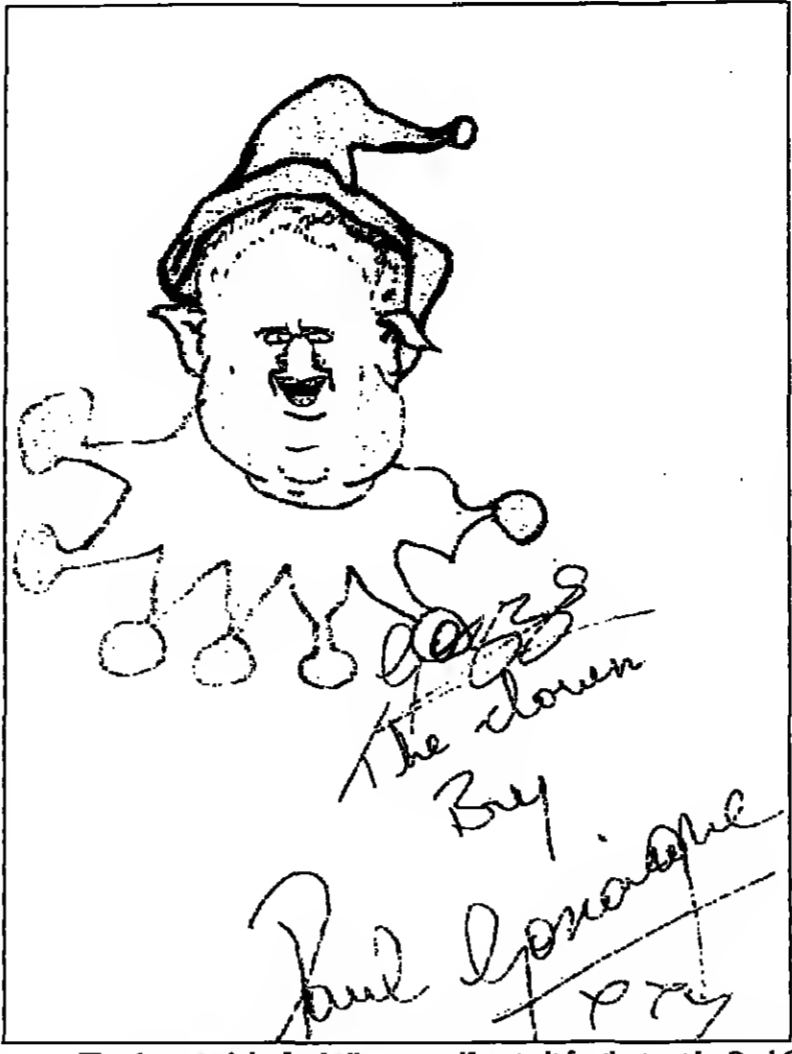
trasts sharply with those expressed by the heads of boys' and mixed schools last month. Patrick Tobin, the president of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, said that divorce was behind most serious disciplinary offences in independent schools. He said a survey had revealed that marital breakdown was seen by schools as a greater threat to "good order" than drugs or alcohol.

Mrs Anderson said the Government was right to emphasise the advantages of traditional family values in this month's Green Paper. But the reality was often different. "There are plenty of happy, well-adjusted people around who did not have the conventional two parents."

In her opening address to the conference in Glasgow, Mrs Anderson said: "I sometimes think of Elizabeth I — a highly successful leader whose home life offered a series of role models who taught her how to avoid following in their footsteps."

She said she shared with Mrs Blair an upbringing in which her grandmother played a large part. The Prime Minister's wife was looked after by her grandmother from the age of six weeks.

Mrs Anderson, who has been married for 35 years and has two adult children, said: "One person can be sufficient to nurture a well-balanced individual. Divorce is a fact of life but damage limitation is possible if parents can be generous enough to ensure that the child is not divorced along with the partner."



The clown and the football star: a self-portrait for the trust by Paul Gascoigne and a cartoon by his friend Jimmy "Five Bellies" Gardner



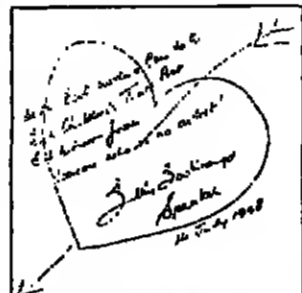
Gascoigne plays the clown for charity

By PAUL WILKINSON

PAUL GASCOIGNE has made an art form of playing the clown both on and off the field, and now a self-portrait proves the point.

The Middlesbrough midfielder, once labelled "daft as a brush" by Bobby Robson when he was the England football manager, was among celebrities asked to paint a self-portrait to raise money for the Sick Children's Trust.

The result is a felt-tip sketch of a clown, complete with court jester's yellow ruff and red hat. Jimmy "Five Bellies" Gardner, Gascoigne's friend and minder, has also contributed to the Draw Attention exhibition. He has portrayed Gascoigne sweating in a Newcastle United strip as he strides down the pitch. Yesterday a psychologist



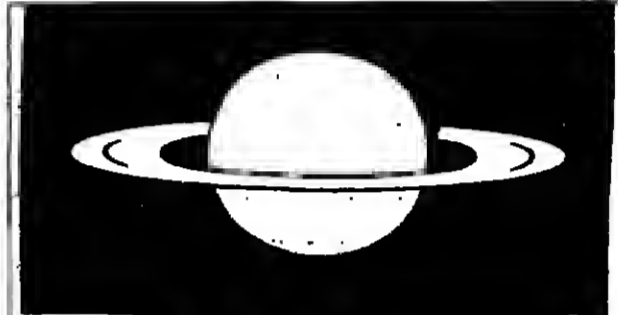
From the heart: Betty Boothroyd's creation

said that Gascoigne's self-portrait revealed low self-esteem. Professor Jenny Firth-Coxens, professor of clinical psychology at University of Northumbria in Newcastle, said: "This role is something people, especially children, often play when their self-image is not as strong as it should be."

mous stunts was wearing false breasts while riding on top of an open bus when England returned from the 1990 World Cup. He also outraged Italian television viewers by belching into a microphone when approached for an interview during his time with Lazio.

The exhibition, which includes about 600 works by celebrities and professional artists, is on show at the Halton Gallery at Newcastle University and will be sold in sealed bids on Saturday.

The television presenter Anthea Turner has doodled a horse's head, while Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker of the House of Commons, has drawn a heart and the message "With best wishes from someone who is no artist." Other contributors include the astronomer Patrick Moore.



SATURN
1997 December 27, 2350 GMT.
15x Reflector x 35a
Patrick Moore
Seby

The astronomer Patrick Moore's view of Saturn

Mother wins fight to keep her baby in prison

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A PRISONER yesterday won her legal battle to stop the Prison Service taking away her two-week-old baby.

In what is seen as a test case for the rights of mothers in jail, the 24-year-old former psychology student is expected to be offered a place in a special mother and baby unit.

Three senior judges were told that prison chiefs had agreed to reconsider her application for a place at Holloway prison, North London, where she is serving a five-year sentence for wounding with intent after slashing the face of a love rival. She had been refused a place at the mother and baby unit because of alleged disruptive behaviour and because she was considered a risk to other mothers and babies.

A special admissions board meeting will sit at the prison later this week when an offer is expected to be agreed after a Prison Service climbdown outlined in court.

It emerged after the hearing that the Prison Service, which has four such units in England and Wales with a total of 68 places, will be reviewing its procedures.

Despite the outcome of the case, however, Lord Justice Evans, sitting with Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Brooke, warned the mother to "behave".

The hearing yesterday was the penultimate stage in a legal battle over the decision in September by Mike Sheldrick, the prison governor, to part Miss E from her daughter once she was born.

Holloway was accused of acting "unfairly and unlawfully" and failing in their legal duty properly to take into account the child's best interests.

Miss E gave birth under guard in hospital outside the prison on November 3 and has been breast-feeding. She denied allegations that she was involved in fighting, violence and bullying while in jail.



Elizabeth I: thrived in unconventional family



the new FOCUS



An open and shut case for getting rid of hereditary peers

THE constitutional ping-pong between the Commons and the Lords over the European elections Bill is a ludicrous charade. Entering its fourth round in the Lords this afternoon, the dispute shows what is wrong with the Lords. This is not merely the ability of hereditary peers to swamp the votes of life peers, but as much about how the powers of the upper House should be exercised.

Viscount Cranborne, the Conservative leader, finds it hard to keep a straight face when he invokes democratic principles to challenge a closed-list election of candidates. The Tories, who anyway prefer first past the post to proportional representation, are making mischief. Such tactics are the Tories' right and they know they cannot push it too far.

The issue itself, the choice of open or closed lists for the election of candidates, is, in practice, finely judged. Most of us would instinctively opt for an open-list system under which voters themselves pick the order of candidates on the list offered by the parties, or an independent candidate. This is in contrast to the closed list, the Government's preference, under which voters choose between alternative tickets of candidates with the order of preference already fixed by the parties.

Rejoice for democracy: not quite. The open-list system has a number of disadvantages. It encourages candidates of the same party to compete against each other and may produce perverse results whereby some candidates can be elected with fewer votes than those who fail to be elected. A closed list also allows parties to ensure that women and ethnic minorities have a better chance of being elected by putting them high-

three times and, on each occasion, there has been a big majority in favour of closed lists. These exchanges could go on until the end of the current session this Thursday or Friday. This could force the Government either to drop the Bill, invoking the cumbersome Parliament Act procedure to push the measure through in the next session, or to accept an open-list system.

The Lords have, in practice, accepted limitations on this unlimited power. After forcing the Commons to think again twice, the Lords have usually accepted the will of the elected chamber. As Lord Richard, now the wise owl of Labour backbench peers, noted last Thursday, if these understandings were to break down, "the sensible constitutional relationship between the two Houses would also break down".

Strangely, the contrary view was put by a fellow Labour peer, Lord Stoddart of Swindon, one of the most sanctimonious and disagreeable members of either House. Using the word "duty" eleven times in a brief speech, he said the Lords "has the right and duty to insist on its amendments if it believes they are correct". On this view, the Lords has an absolute veto, and is not just a revising chamber exercising its powers with restraint.

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

PETER RIDDELL

Field ups stakes on pensions

FRANK FIELD, the former minister, yesterday stepped up the pressure for compulsory second pensions (Jill Sherman writes). Mr Field, who resigned as Minister for Welfare Reform because his proposals had been blocked, published his own ten-minute rule Bill which would require all workers aged 20 and over to contribute to a second stakeholder pension. Pensioners would be entitled to a flat-rate payment equivalent to 30 per cent of average earnings, double the current amount. The stakeholder pension would complement the state pension and would be phased in over 40-45 years. Contributions would be earnings related. Poorest groups, carers and mothers with children under five, would be funded by higher earners' contributions. Ministers are still finalising their own plans.

Inbred world of Welsh politics exposed by assembly challenge

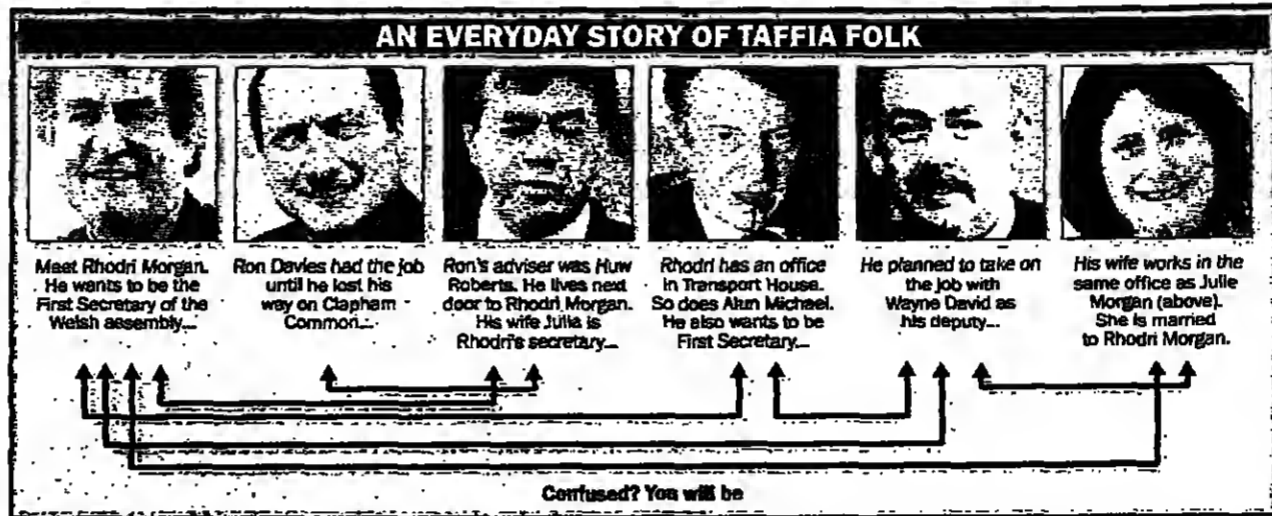
BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A BUSINESSMAN from Swansea, yesterday joined in the contest for the leadership of the Welsh assembly and in doing so highlighted the small and incestuous world of the Welsh Labour Party. Roger Warren Evans, 62, the third candidate to stand for the office of First Secretary, is unusual because he is an outsider. That means he has never shared an office, a flat, a wife or a secretary with any of

the other key players. His prospects are said to be slim. Mr Warren Evans said yesterday that his intervention is in part a protest at the in-fighting between politicians from Cardiff after the resignation of the former Welsh Secretary Rhodri Morgan. In the claustrophobic world of Welsh Labour politics the contest is as much about old friendships and old rivalries as it is about the future of the Principality. First time around it was a straight head-to-head contest between Ron Davies and Rhodri Morgan. The MP for Caerphilly and the MP for Cardiff West were linked by more than their politics. The former Welsh Secretary's right-hand man and principal political adviser was Mr Morgan's next-door neighbour, Huw Roberts. Mr Roberts lives next door to Mr Morgan in Michaelston-le-Pit near Cardiff, and his wife Julia is Mr Morgan's constituency secretary. The two couples share a London flat.



Warren Evans: protest against Cardiff in-fighting



Mr Roberts, who is working out three months' notice after Mr Davies's downfall, announced yesterday that he will be standing for election to the Assembly. Mr Morgan is running against Mr Davies's successor

as Welsh Secretary, Alun Michael, the MP for Cardiff South. The pair shared a cramped office for many years and were often seen out jogging together around Cardiff.

Mr Morgan's office is on the fourth floor of Transport House in Cardiff, while the main Labour Party office backing Mr Michael is two floors below. One floor below that is the offices of Transport and General Workers' Union which has been trying to negotiate a unity ticket.

The suggestion was that Mr Michael would stand for election as leader with Mr Morgan sharing the role of deputy with Wayne David, former leader of the Labour group in Brussels.

Mr David's wife Catherine is employed in the office of Julie Morgan, wife of Rhodri, who is herself Labour MP for Cardiff North.

Mr David is also being tipped as a candidate for the top job in Welsh politics but has so far declined to declare his hand.

One Labour worker said: "They all know each other very, very well indeed. We hope they will all be friends when this is all over." The executive of the Welsh Labour Party meets on Thursday to thrash out the mechanism for electing the First Secretary. They are expected to opt for one member one vote which would give the advantage to Mr Morgan.

SNP denies 'subsidy junkie' slur on Scots

BY GILLIAN HARRIS SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Government was accused yesterday of perpetuating the myth of Scots as "subsidy junkies" with the publication of an official report claiming that Scotland receives much more taxpayers' money than England and Wales. The report shows that Scotland received £3.2 billion of subsidies from the rest of the United Kingdom as well as more money per head of population for health, education and social security in 1996-97. The statistics, published in the latest edition of the Government Expenditure and Revenue in Scotland report, show that Scotland had a deficit of £7.1 billion in 1996-97. However, when the declining revenues from North Sea oil were taken into account, along with the proceeds from privatisation, the deficit dropped to £3.2 billion. The shortfall was made up with subsidies from the Exchequer.

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	£10,000	6.45%	5.95%
Up to £10,000	6.25%	5.75%	5.75%
Midland Instant Access Savings (Annual interest option)	Gross		Gross CAR
	£50,000 +	6.00%	5.50%
	£25,000 +	5.35%	4.65%
	£10,000 +	4.85%	4.20%
£5,000 +	4.60%	4.00%	
Up to £5,000	4.25%	4.00%	4.00%
Deposit Account 7 days notice (No longer sold)	Gross		Gross CAR
	£50,000 +	5.92%	5.44%
	£25,000 +	5.29%	4.61%
	£10,000 +	4.80%	4.20%
£5,000 +	4.56%	3.97%	
Up to £5,000	4.21%	3.97%	4.00%
Tessa and follow-up Tessa (Annual Tax Free Interest)	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	7.80%	7.30%	
Mortgages*			
Home Loan Rate	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	APR	APR	Int. Rate p.a.
	9.0%	8.5%	8.20%
Home Improvement Loan Rate (loans sanctioned before 26 April 89)	11.0%	10.5%	10.20%
Home Mortgage Rate	8.9%	8.4%	8.20%
Other Secured Borrowing			
Homeowner Reserve	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	APR	APR	Int. Rate p.a.
	12.6%	11.80%	11.40%
Bank Accounts			
Student Bank Account	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	Gross	Gross	Gross CAR
	1.99%	1.49%	1.50%
16-19 Year Old Account	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	Gross	Gross	Gross CAR
	2.23%	1.74%	1.75%
Livacash	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	Gross	Gross	Gross CAR
	4.17%	3.93%	4.00%
Base Rate 6.75% effective from 5 November 1998			

Gross: The rate before the deduction of tax, applicable to savings. Compounded Annual Rate: The true gross return taking into account the frequency of interest payments. Tax Free: Tax Free means that interest is not subject to income tax. *Mortgage rates for new borrowers were effective from 17 November 1998. All rates are correct as at 3 December 1998 but may vary in the future.

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ary peers

As most of us know, the House of Lords has an absolute veto, and is not just a revising chamber. This tiresome episode has shown that any reform of the Lords must focus on the powers of the upper House as much as its composition. There will have to be firm rules on what the Lords can do and probably some kind of joint conference procedure. Getting rid of hereditary peers is merely a preliminary.

PETER RIDDELL

SNP denies 'subsidy junkie' slur on Scots

By Gillian Harris
 SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

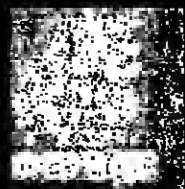
The Government was accused of perpetrating a "subsidy junkie" slur on Scotland with the publication of an official report claiming that Scotland receives more taxpayer money than England and Wales. The report shows that Scotland received £5.2 billion more than England and Wales in 1997-98. The report also shows that Scotland receives more taxpayer money than England and Wales in every year since 1992. The report also shows that Scotland receives more taxpayer money than England and Wales in every year since 1992. The report also shows that Scotland receives more taxpayer money than England and Wales in every year since 1992.

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Tourism takes toll on the Taj

India's most famous landmark faces closure because of damage by visitors and pollution, writes Christopher Thomas in Delhi

THE Taj Mahal, battered by people, sandstorms and pollution, may be permanently closed. It is suffering the ravages of 10 million pairs of feet trudging across its marble floors every year, adding to its accelerating decay.

The decline is visible: the marble steps leading to the main part of the mausoleum are cracked and worn from over-use and some of the white marble slabs in the dome and minarets have been replaced because they have disintegrated from "marble cancer" — the result of decades of chronic pollution from vehicles, brickworks and iron foundries in and around Agra, one of the filthiest cities in India.

The new slabs are patently just that: the stone surrounding them is yellow with time, much of it marked with brown spots — evidence of pollution damage. The area immediately around the Taj has improved substantially since a supreme court ruling two years ago ordering the closure of 260 iron foundries unless they switched from solid fuel to gas, but by then much of the damage had been done.

Hundreds of other factories were ordered out of a 6,500 square mile area around the monument, and battery-driven buses were introduced to carry tourists from car parks nearly a mile away. The buses are no longer in use because the authorities have failed to replace worn-out batteries.

Guards at the Taj do little to protect the monument: children can be seen urinating against it and the constant touching of delicate work in marble and semi-precious stones has caused many pockets of damage.

Tree felling in the Rajasthan desert has created sandstorms that have caused serious erosion of the marble. The vaults at the base of the building, where Emperor Shah Jehan and his favourite wife are buried, have been so badly damaged by visitors they have been permanently closed to the public.

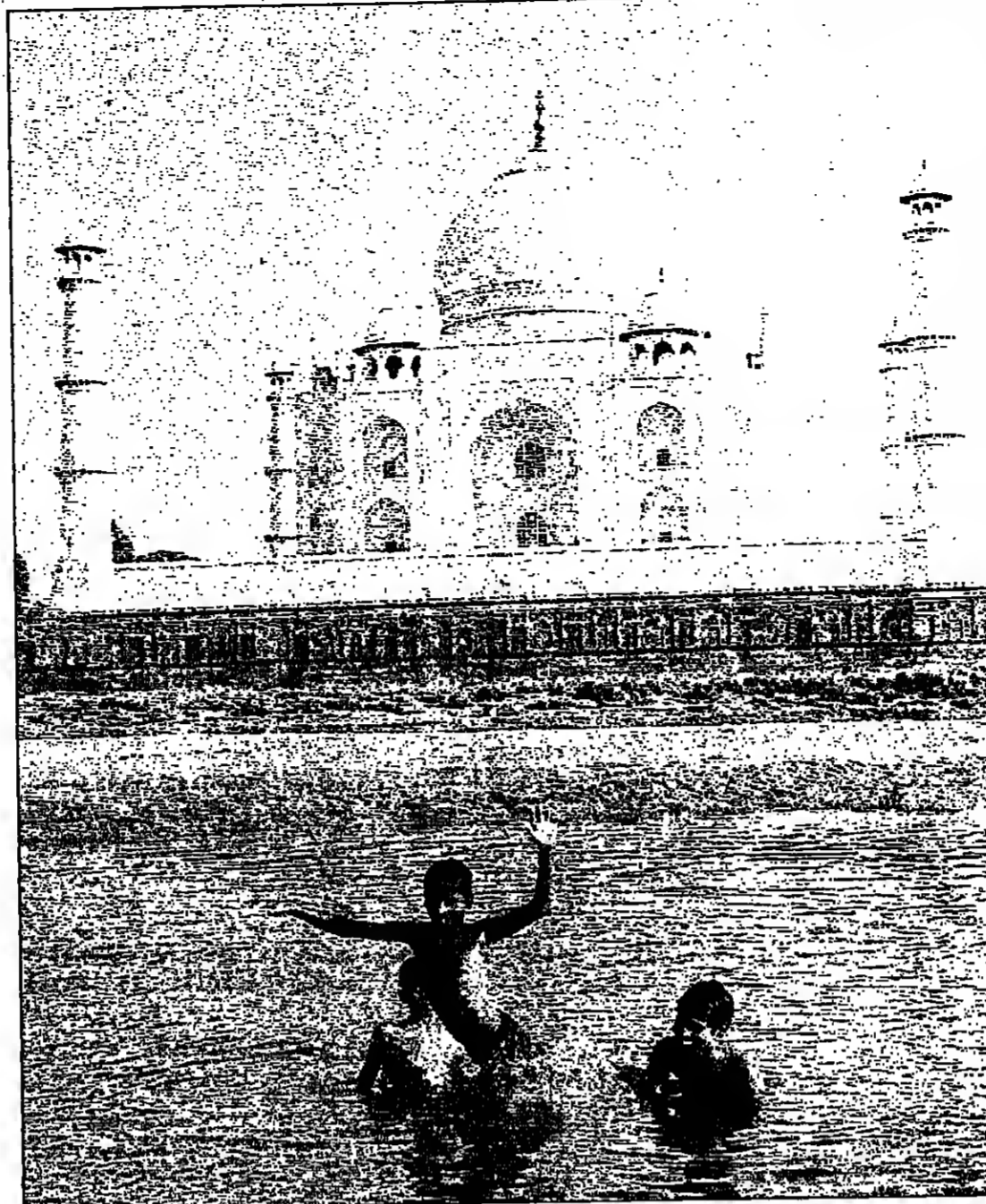
The tasteless lighting installed to illuminate the Taj has been widely criticised. Every Friday, when entry is free,

around 100,000 people pour into the Taj. Every year more than 10 million people visit the 17th century mausoleum, built by 20,000 labourers and craftsmen — some of whom had their thumbs severed afterwards so they could never repeat the masterpiece.

D.V. Sharma, superintendent of the Agra branch of the Archaeological Survey of India, a much criticised and financially strapped government body meant to preserve ancient monuments, issued dire warnings that the Taj was crumbling from the deluge of tourists and that drastic steps were necessary.

He raised the possibility of permanent closure, but added that at the very least the number of visitors should be curbed. Privately, officials directly involved in preserving the Taj say that ultimately there will be no choice but to close the monument in order to slow its decline. There has been buck-passing between the Survey and the Government's Department of Tourism over who is responsible for controlling the number of visitors. The Survey has publicly declared the urgent need for a cut-back and criticised the tourism department for failing to address the crisis properly.

Agra and the surrounding region are rich with historical monuments that are rarely visited — probably because Agra is such a foul city and most people flee once they have seen the Taj. The state government of Uttar Pradesh and the federal Government in Delhi are jointly spending \$55 million to try to clean up the environment — which, if anything, will bring more visitors. Controlling entry to the building, the most popular tourist destination in India, could prove to be politically difficult because of the money it generates. Allowing the Taj to fall apart also has political dangers, given the perception among many Muslim leaders that the Hindu nationalist-led Government in Delhi has scant interest in protecting India's Islamic heritage.



Children at play in the Yamuna river near the Taj Mahal, where heavy tourism is causing damage

Leading article, page 19

List of endangered natural and man-made wonders grows

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE closure of the Taj Mahal would add one more name to a growing list of world heritage sites where access is now restricted or impossible. As world tourism increases, the number of ancient monuments that have to be protected from the pounding of human feet and the humidity of human breath is growing.

The prehistoric paintings of the Lascaux caves in the Dordogne,

France, have only been visible in reproduction since the 1970s, when the caves were closed to visitors because their breath was promoting the growth of damaging moulds.

In Egypt several tombs in the Valley of the Kings are permanently closed, while the three giant pyramids of Giza are being closed in turn this year and next to give them some respite. In Italy the basilica at Assisi is closed while restoration work continues on frescoes smashed in the

earthquake of 1997, while in Pisa people are no longer permitted to scale the leaning tower in case they bring about its downfall.

Florence issues permits to limit the city's visitors to 500 coaches and 50,000 people a day.

In Malta the Saffien hypogeum, an enormous underground burial complex, is now closed for restoration after decades of lax management led to extensive damage by vandals and graffiti artists.

In Britain access to our own prime heritage site, Stonehenge, has been off-limits for more than 20 years, and there has been talk of declaring the summit of Snowdon off limits as well.

Visitors to the Andean ruins of Machu Picchu in Peru and to the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific are severely restricted. The Monteverde cloud forest reserve in Costa Rica only allows 100 visitors at a time, and that to one small corner of its area.

The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan admits only a few thousand foreigners a year and charges them £65 a day for the privilege.

Speakers at a Royal Geographical Society seminar earlier this year accepted that more oo-go areas were certain to be declared soon.

High on the list are the Yellowstone and Everglades national parks in the United States, both already on UNESCO's danger list of world heritage sites.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Habibie vows to hold early poll

Jakarta: President Habibie of Indonesia moved swiftly yesterday to shore up his Government's battered reputation with promises of a full investigation into last week's killings which would not spare the security forces, and a commitment to earlier-than-expected presidential elections (David Watts writes).

Police continued to question members of a reformist group they say tried to overthrow the Government. So far 11 of 18 signatories to a petition denouncing the People's Representative Assembly and calling for a provisional government have been held but none charged. Dr Habibie said students had been used to incite the violence that led to 14 deaths.

Tobacco pact agreed

Washington: Four US tobacco companies agreed to pay \$206 billion (£124 billion) over 25 years to recompense eight states for Medicaid funds spent on smoking-related illnesses (Ian Brodie writes). The four will scrap billboard advertising, stop using merchandise to promote brands and ban marketing aimed at children — but still sponsor sports events. However the pact does not offer protection from lawsuits. The Clinton Administration will fight for tougher legislation in Congress.

Schröder in Moscow

Moscow: Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, made it clear on his first trip to Moscow as head of Government that he would not seek to revive the relationship enjoyed by his predecessor, Helmut Kohl, and President Yeltsin (Robin Lodge writes). Herr Schröder, who held talks with Yevgeni Primakov, Russia's Prime Minister, said he was looking forward to a scheduled meeting with Mr Yeltsin, but emphasised that he was seeking broader relations with other Russian politicians.

Italy firm on Kurd

Rome: Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, said Italy could not accept extraditions to countries where the death penalty was in force and would resist threats or pressure over the arrest of Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish guerrilla leader. Speaking at a weekly news conference, Signor D'Alema said that the Court of Appeals would make a final decision on Mr Ocalan, who had asked for political asylum, but the Prime Minister gave no indication of when. (Reuters)

Mandela under fire

Johannesburg: A unit set up by President Mandela to tackle government corruption has become involved in a clash with Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, who will succeed him next year, over its decision to issue a summons against Dr Nkosazama Zuma, the Health Minister (Ray Kennedy writes). She has been ordered to account for the £1.4 million funding of a musical to increase AIDS awareness among youth. Mr Mbeki said she would be vigorously defended.

Suicide injures guard

Los Angeles: A woman attempting to kill herself jumped off a six-storey building and landed on a security guard who tried to catch her. The woman died and the guard suffered a broken neck. The woman, who was not identified, warned people on the ground that she was going to jump and everyone moved except the guard, Conrad Buchanan. The woman suffered a broken back and died in hospital. The guard, 26, was in a serious but stable condition. (AP)

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Libie vows to early poll

Libya's Government vowed to hold early elections in the wake of the killing of the presidential candidate, a move that would end the current state of emergency. David Wane, a member of the Government, said the move would be a sign of a reformist government. He said the Government would be holding a referendum on the constitution in the next few weeks. He also said the Government would be holding a referendum on the constitution in the next few weeks.

US pact agreed

Four US aircraft companies agreed to pay the Japanese Government 25 million dollars to help cover the cost of the damage to the aircraft carrier USS *Sumner* in the Gulf of Mexico. The companies are Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Raytheon. The agreement was reached after a series of negotiations between the US and Japanese governments.

Under in Moscow

President Clinton's visit to Moscow is expected to be a success. The President is expected to meet with Russian President Yeltsin and discuss the relationship between the two countries. Clinton is also expected to meet with Russian officials and discuss the situation in the Balkans.

Firm on Kurd

The US Government is firm on its policy towards the Kurds. The Government is committed to supporting the Kurds in their struggle against the regime in Baghdad. The Government is also committed to providing humanitarian aid to the Kurds.

Modela under fire

The modela is under fire from the media. The media is reporting that the modela is a dangerous and unstable weapon. The media is also reporting that the modela is being used by terrorists.

Side injures guard

The side of the guard was injured during the attack. The guard was hit in the side by a bullet. The guard is now recovering in a hospital.

Relatives sue over sailors killed in hurricane

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

THE families of West Indian crew members who drowned when the tall ship *Fantome* sank during Hurricane Mitch last month are suing the vessel's owners for sending their loved ones out on what they claim was a suicide mission.

Thirty West Indian men are presumed to have drowned with their skipper, Guyan March, 32, from St Austell, Cornwall, when the 282ft *Fantome* was overcome by huge seas and ferocious winds off the coast of Honduras on the night of October 27. No bodies have been found and sea searches have turned up only two empty life rafts and part of a wooden staircase.

Lawyers for the families say that the disaster would never have happened had the ship not set sail into some of the worst conditions in a century in the Caribbean. Bill Huggett, a Miami-based lawyer who specialises in representing seamen and who has filed papers on behalf of 15 families, claims the ship's owners val-

ued the 1927-vintage *Fantome* above the lives of its crew. Mr Huggett said that, while it was common practice for cruise ships to put to sea to get out of the way of a hurricane, these were exceptional circumstances. "This was a killer — it was the worst hurricane in 100 years with winds of 180mph, which were enough to blow concrete buildings down, let alone an antique sailing vessel," Mr Huggett added.

He also alleges that Mr March was effectively ordered to go back to sea by Michael Burke, the president of Windjammer Barefoot Cruises of Miami, the ship's owners, who was communicating with the skipper from his offices by satellite telephone. However, Mr Burke has been quoted in reports in the American press as saying that it was Mr March's decision to set sail again, something the company claims was both correct at the time and standard practice in the marine industry.

The disaster came after the three-masted *Fantome* docked in Belize to put off 57 cruise passengers and also ten new crew members, including all the women, as Mr March and Mr Burke both became increasingly concerned about the approaching storm.

It was then decided to put to sea to try to ride out the worst of the hurricane in the lee of Roatan Island, 25 miles off the Honduran coast. But a change in Mitch's tremendous conditions and the ship was overcome in 50R waves in a storm that raged for 30 hours.

The family of Mr March are not involved with the legal action and do not plan to sue the company.



President Chirac of France visits survivors of Hurricane Mitch at a nursery in the northern Guatemalan community of Punta Manabique. The makeshift facility is being run by French firefighters

Japanese troops fly in with aid for Honduras

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN TEGUCIGALPA

TWO-HUNDRED Japanese troops and military planes landed at Tegucigalpa airport yesterday as part of the Hurricane Mitch relief effort — the first time Japanese soldiers have been deployed abroad in a foreign capacity since the Second World War.

They staged a brief visit by Hillary Clinton, the wife of President Clinton, touring Central America to inspect the storm damage. The arrival yesterday of President Chirac of France also aroused great interest after his country last week announced it was writing off a \$100 million (£62.5 million) debt by Honduras and Nicaragua.

The Honduran Government is anxiously seeking international support for the further writing off of its \$4 billion debt with several countries and international banks.

But it was the arrival of the Japanese that captured the spotlight. For decades Hondurans have been used to seeing headlines announcing the arrival of American troops in

their country. Yesterday it was a different story. "Japanese troops arrive" exclaimed one front page.

In recent years Japan has emerged as one of the top foreign aid donors in the region, surpassing the United States and the European Union. Honduras is especially grateful. After US aid dropped from record levels in the 1980s of \$190 million a year to \$30 million in the 1990s, Japan picked up the slack, averaging about \$90 million a year. That dropped last year to about \$80 million as a result of the Asian financial crisis, but the troop arrival has again demonstrated Tokyo's commitment to the region. The Japanese will be working in medical teams and plan to set up a mobile hospital.

British and European aid continues to arrive. The Red Cross has set up a virtual air-bridge between Honduras and its donors. At least eight aid flights have arrived at Soto Cano Air Force base in Honduras.

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March: missing skipper of the ill-fated *Fantome*

Disgraced priest in deathbed mystery

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN WASHINGTON

A MYSTERY surrounds the death of a parish priest who embezzled \$1.35 million (£813,000) from his Pittsburgh church collections and lost much of it in Atlantic City's casinos.

Father Walter Benz was a victim of advanced leukaemia and a disgrace to his Catholic diocese when he died two months ago after an oxygen tube and intravenous drip were pulled from his body.

Detectives are now wrestling with a nurse's story about two strangers seen at his deathbed — and never seen again. Were they angels of mercy or vengeful parishioners, or characters concocted by the nurse in desperation?

The parish of St Mary Assumption is reeling from the revelation that for 26 years his priest siphoned \$1,000 a week from collection plates to pay for properties in Pennsylvania and Florida, rare coins, old guns and a Cadillac as well as his gambling.

He also lived for three years with a woman parishioner who joined his scam after catching him red-handed. Fr Benz died at 72 after confessing embezzlement to a church official and sinking into a coma on the day of his arrest.

Barely a week later, an alarm sounded in his nursing home to indicate his intravenous tube had been disconnected. The first nurse on the scene said that he found a middle-aged couple standing over his bed, one of them holding his hand. In the frenzy that followed the couple vanished.

Before he died Fr Benz told police that Mary Albaugh, 51, became his partner in crime. She now stands accused of theft, forgery and conspiracy.

She reportedly urged doctors to withdraw life support, but deferred to her lawyer. With eerie prescience he advised her to "wait and see next week", he told the *Los Angeles Times*. "I said, 'God works in mysterious ways.'"

Presidency bid cut short by Turner

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

A BID for the White House by Ted Turner, the flamboyant media mogul, appeared over yesterday before it had really begun.

The billionaire had already said that his wife, the actress Jane Fonda, was opposed to his running, but had not elaborated on his plans other than to paint a doomsday scenario of America being swamped by starving people.

But yesterday he responded to a report in *The New Yorker* by issuing a statement through Time Warner Inc. "As of today Mr Turner has no plans to run for office," said a spokesman, who would not comment on quotes attributed to Mr Turner which suggested there were problems in his marriage.

He had apparently astonished a 300-strong dinner audience by saying: "We just came from the marriage counsellor in Santa Monica. Jane wants me to become a saint — but I'm not."

Mr Turner, founder of the Cable News Network (CNN) and vice-president of Time Warner, was collecting a World Citizenship Award from the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. He attacked the Government, saying: "The United States is the one that doesn't want to get rid of nuclear weapons because somehow they think that we're going to be able to use nuclear weapons to save ourselves from the starving masses of the Third World when they come to our doorstep."

"But that's not the way they are going to come in. They're coming from across the Mexican border right now... they'll come from Saudi Arabia when they run out of oil... the real threat is no longer an army marching on us, it's people infiltrating us, you know, that are going to do what are we starting to do? Shoot 'em?" Ms Fonda was reported to have said only: "Wherever Ted goes, I go."

Jailing closes terror chapter in Germany

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

MONIKA HAAS was jailed for five years yesterday for her part in an aircraft hijacking — a sentencing that marked Germany's final reckoning with its terrorist past.

In 1977 she had smuggled weapons and explosives to a Palestinian hit squad, which then hijacked a Lufthansa jet in an unsuccessful attempt to free Red Army Faction terrorists. The attack formed part of the dramatic climax of Germany's "years of blood and lead". Terrorist stunts in the 1970s and assassinations that ended well into the 1980s put a massive strain on the German political system.

Above all, it moulded the political class of 1968 that has taken power: both Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, and Ono Schily, Interior Minister, were defence lawyers for members of the terrorist milieu. Joschka Fischer, the Foreign Minister, and other leading Green Party personalities were in sympathy with many aims (though not methods) of the Baader-Meinhof group.

The Government would like public memories of those years to fade, but this seems unlikely as long as Carlos the Jackal — regarded as the guiding spirit behind the interna-

tional terrorist movement — is under investigation in France.

German authorities have requested the extradition of one German terrorist suspect held in France this autumn and more evidence is emerging of connections between East Germany's Stasi secret police, the Carlos group and the Red Army Faction. Dan Voineau, chief Romanian military prosecutor, admitted at the weekend that the Securitate secret police had paid Carlos to organise attacks within Germa-



Haas took hijackers' weapons to Majorca

ny. He received \$1 million (£600,000), for example, for a bomb attack on Radio Free Europe's Munich headquarters in 1981.

The Securitate also supplied explosives to Carlos's German adjutant, Johannes Weirich, to be smuggled into Berlin for a bomb attack on the Maison de France cultural institute.

Haas seemed unsurprised by her sentence. The prosecutor had demanded ten years, the defence an acquittal. She was found guilty of assisting an attack on air traffic, complicity in violent hostage-taking and attempted murder.

The Majorca to Frankfurt flight, with 82 passengers and five crew aboard, was diverted to Aden — where Jürgen Schumann, the pilot, was murdered — before reaching Mogadishu in Somalia. Helmut Schmidt, then Chancellor, ordered the storming of the jet. Hours after the hostages were freed, three Red Army Faction terrorists, including Andreas Baader, its leader, committed suicide in Stuttgart prison.

Six days later, the body of Hanns-Martin Schleyer, the German Employers Federation president, was found in Alsace. So many bloody events sent Germany into shock.

Call-girl trial in Paris set to snare celebrities

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE trials of four people accused of involvement in a high class call-girl ring catering to international businessmen, Gulf princes and other wealthy individuals opened in Paris yesterday amid speculation that the names of prominent clients could be revealed in court.

Jean-Pierre Bourgeois, a 51-year-old photographer suspected of recruiting young women to the prostitution network, was charged with "aggravated pimping", but his alleged accomplice in the vice ring, former Swedish beauty queen Anika Brumarek, 50, was not present in court and will be tried separately because her lawyer was injured in a recent car accident and could not attend.

M Bourgeois and Mme Brumarek were arrested in October 1996 after the French vice squad stumbled across the alleged prostitution ring during a routine investigation that rapidly ballooned into an embarrassing international scandal.

The investigators allegedly found a list of 89 young women, including 14 minors, and the names of 26 "clients", including several from the Gulf states and members of the international jet set.

Prostitution is not illegal in France, but M Bourgeois faces up to ten years in prison if he is convicted of pimping.

Frederic N'Guyen, the tenacious judge investigating the case, added fuel to the scandal last February when he called in the American actor Robert De Niro for questioning as a potential witness. Mr de Niro was so enraged by his treatment at the hands of French investigators that he sued the magistrate and announced he was returning his Légion d'honneur medal.

M Bourgeois is suspected of luring young women into the call-girl network, allegedly by claiming he was taking publicity photographs for a cosmetics company and with the promise of minor film roles. A dozen of the women, many of whom were penni-



Anika Brumarek, a former model from Sweden, arrives at the Paris court to hear the opening session of the call-girl trial. She is due to be tried later for pimping

less aspiring models or actresses from Northern and Eastern Europe, have since joined in the case as civil plaintiffs.

According to prosecutors, M Bourgeois had the women pose for obscene photographs. The resulting "album" was allegedly shown to wealthy clients, and meetings were then arranged in Paris or on the Côte d'Azur.

According to Judge N'Guyen some of the women were recruited by being persuaded that prostitution was the quickest route to a glamorous job in films or modelling, but others were allegedly blackmailed with the threat that the photographs taken by M Bourgeois would be sent to their families if they did not co-operate.

Senior French politicians, as well as sporting and film celebrities, are reported to be on the client list for the call-girl ring, which may well have operated with the covert blessing of the French secret services.

Also on trial is Nazih Al Ladki, a Lebanese businessman who worked as a secretary to the nephew of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and is suspected of acting as a go-between in negotiations. Two Swedish citizens, Thomas Axell and Janina Toresdotter Necander, also appeared in court yesterday accused of acting as intermediaries.

The ring allegedly charged clients up to Fr50,000 (£5,000) a night in a highly lucrative and exploitative trade in human flesh. The alleged in-

volvement of Gulf princes has made the case politically sensitive since the Gulf oil states are major purchasers of French military hardware.

At one point in the investigation, according to Le Monde newspaper, the Justice Ministry demanded to know precisely which "foreign personalities" might be involved.

"Only the small fry are being judged. This investigation was stifled from the start," Vincent Delmas, a lawyer representing one of the victims, alleged. The trial is expected to last until November 25.

The court ruled that Mme Brumarek, and another of the accused who is suffering from heart problems, would be tried next May.

Moscow winter claims its first victims

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

AS RUSSIANS brace themselves for what is expected to be the coldest winter in 30 years, 13 people have already died of hypothermia in Moscow. In some northern areas temperatures have plummeted lower than -40C (-40F).

The mortality rate in Russia is between 50 and 100 per cent higher than that in the industrialised West, and life expectancy, at 57.7 years for men and 71.2 for women, is the lowest for 40 years.

Alcohol-related deaths are blamed for 10 per cent of the drop, closely followed by infectious disease and liver disease as the country's healthcare system deteriorates and poverty spreads. A tuberculosis epidemic is claiming more than 100,000 new patients a year and the cold winter can only aggravate a dire situation.

Nikolai Antonov, 49, has lived on Moscow's streets for six months. This will be his first winter without a roof over his head and, he fears, his last. "I didn't have anywhere to go after I got out of prison," he said. "I'm going to go and sleep at a station tonight but they kick you out every five minutes. I just don't want to fall asleep drunk out here."

If he does, he could end up as what the police call a "snow-drop", a body that becomes visible only when the snow melts in the spring.

Vladimir Starodubov, the Minister for Health, told the Federation Council, Russia's upper house of parliament, that an acute shortage of medicine was the most urgent problem in the country's healthcare. Since the beginning of Russia's economic crisis in August imports of vital medicines have plunged and prices of those medicines still available have risen by 110 per cent.

Caroline Hurford, a spokeswoman for the International Red Cross Federation in Moscow, said: "Around the northern rim of Russia they are having to cope with an absence of heating, and all kinds of vital institutions are closing. They spend all their energies huddling round a stove."

Brussels 'mishandled' £3bn

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN BRUSSELS

DESPITE years of promised reforms, the European Commission and EU states last year mishandled £3 billion of taxpayers' money on schemes that were poorly monitored, mismanaged or fraudulent, the Union's financial watchdog is to report today.

For the fourth successive year, the Court of Auditors is withholding its approval of the EU's £65 billion annual spending because more than 5 per cent of the funds cannot be ac-

counted for adequately. The court acknowledged some improvements in the Commission's management, but its latest onslaught will reinforce the embarrassment inflicted on the Brussels executive by scandals highlighting shady management practices and swindles that have cost millions in wrongly spent aid to the former Communist bloc and developing world in the past three years.

The auditors conclude that the accounts "once again showed an unacceptably high incidence of substantive errors

in the transactions underlying the Commission's payments".

Jacques Santer, President of the Commission, is expected to throw much of the blame for mismanagement on the member states when he responds to the report today. The Commission yesterday denied that the £3 billion had "gone missing".

Britain is one of the worst offenders in customs fraud with £63 million identified in 455 cases. Among the targets of the auditors' scorn are payments to fishermen to maintain vessels that had already been scrapped or sunk.

Muslims jailed for Bosnia war crimes

THE War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague yesterday convicted two Bosnian Muslims and a Bosnian Croat for running a sadistic regime of torture and terror at a prison camp in central Bosnia, but unexpectedly acquitted the Muslim military commander of the region on the grounds that he had no control over the behaviour of camp guards (Ben Macintyre writes).

Hazim Delic and Esad Landzo, the Bosnian Muslims, were sentenced to 20 years and 15 years in prison respectively for their horrific treatment of inmates at Celebici camp in 1992. Zdravko Mucic, the Bosnian Croat camp commander, was jailed for seven years.

The court decided to acquit Zajnir Delalic, 50, the Muslim regional commander accused of permitting the mistreatment of Serb prisoners. Prosecutors had asked for a ten-year sentence against Mr Delalic and Grant Niemann, the chief prosecutor, appealed against the ruling.

The case was the tribunal's first concerning atrocities against Serbs and the first to command responsibility for Bosnian war crimes. Detainees at the camp, near Konjic, were murdered, tortured and raped, said prosecutors who singled out Delic, the deputy camp commander, as a vicious offender.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY

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Clinton raids in f divided t

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Moscow winter claims its first victims

FROM ANNA BLANDIN IN MOSCOW
RUSSIANS brace themselves for what is expected to be the coldest winter in 50 years...

war crimes

Allies plot the overthrow of Saddam

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

DICTATOR TARGETED

BRITAIN yesterday threw its weight behind President Clinton's call for the overthrow of Saddam Hussein...

was rational and with whom we could negotiate sensibly on behalf of the world community...

"We see this as a significant development. It represents a change in policy from trying to contain Saddam to removing him..."

were better known in London, where many are based, than in Baghdad...

against Saddam, their brave but doomed rebellion was brutally crushed by Saddam's Republican Guards...

ny Zinni. "I think a weakened, fragmented, chaotic Iraq, which could happen if this isn't done carefully, is more dangerous in the long run than a contained Saddam is now..."

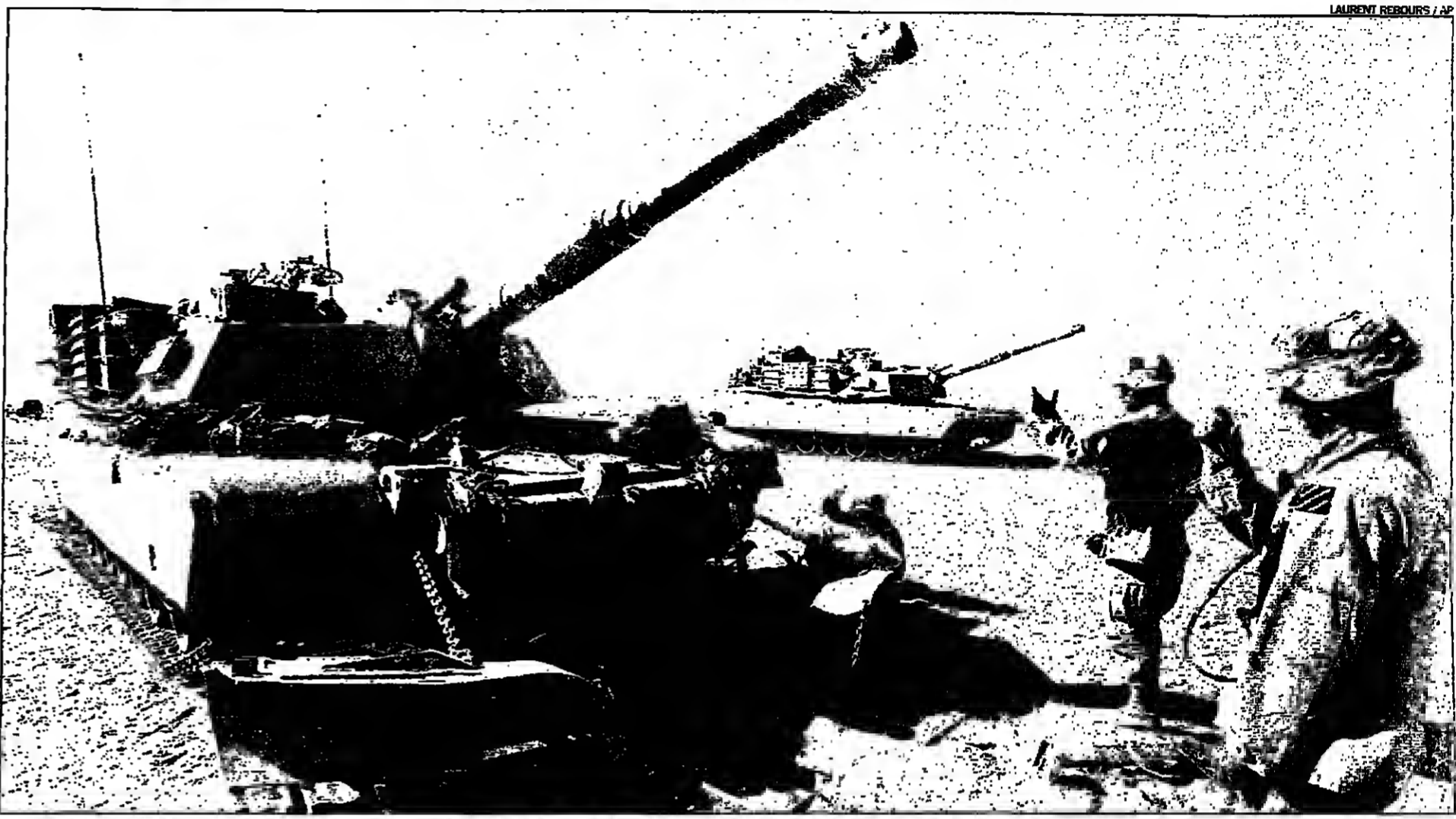
Clinton halted raids in face of divided team

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton went against the advice of some in his national security team when calling off air raids on Iraq at the eleventh hour...

AMERICA

alton together," the official said. Another certainty was that the attacks would have destroyed all hope of renewed searches by Unscm, the UN weapons inspectorate...



American soldiers — part of the US ground force deployed near the Iraqi border in Kuwait — direct an M1A1C battle tank while attaching a mine-clearing device yesterday

UN inspectors to resume search for regime's arsenal

BAGHDAD

Baghdad: United Nations inspectors were due to arrive back in Baghdad today to resume their search for President Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction...

BAGHDAD

The 84 inspectors, as well as 184 UN humanitarian workers, were en route for the Iraqi capital last night from Amman...

BAGHDAD

Clinton said that he wanted to see a change of government in Iraq, and that \$97 million had been set aside to sponsor Iraqi opposition groups...

BAGHDAD

factured crises over the arms inspectors' has been to give the US and Britain "an excuse to attack Iraq and kill Saddam..."

BAGHDAD

son to launch their missiles", they said. As the threat of a military confrontation receded, Saddam could draw some succour from Russia...

Israeli ultimatum puts Wye deal on hold

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU yesterday suspended the new peace deal with the Palestinians until Yassir Arafat publicly retracts weekend threats to renew the armed struggle...



Netanyahu: wants Arafat to retract state claim

seeing the deal put into practice. Mr Clinton is due in Gaza next month at a meeting of the Palestine National Council...

ing to fiery rhetoric from Mr Arafat, who used the anniversary of his 1988 declaration of a Palestinian state to renew a pledge to declare independence on May 4, 1999...

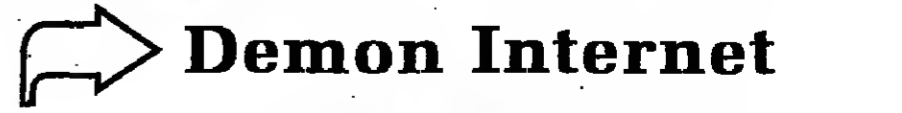
to have to learn to live without their addiction to terrorism, to their violent preaching..."

In an initial attempt to soften Mr Arafat's words, senior aides said that the Palestinians were committed to the peace agreement and that talk of statehood next May had been intended to prod Israel into not dragging out negotiations...

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The cancer carers skilled at pain control

THE Macmillan Cancer Relief charity fundraisers have gone into overdrive before Christmas. Today 300 supporters and workers for the charity from the South East are gathering at the Royal College of Physicians.

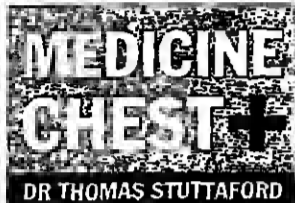
Next Monday, the House of Lords and Commons Parliamentary Palace of Varieties, at St John's Smith Square, compered by Tony Banks, will star Margaret Beckett as a singer, accompanied by John Battle on the mandolin. Lord Janner of Braunstone will show his conjuring skills, and the cast will also include the Tory party chairman, Michael Ancram; Tom King; Lord Baker of Dorking reciting poetic parodies; John MacGregor, who will read minds; John Reid singing Scottish folk songs and Toby Jessel, the former MP for Twicken-

"I want even the poorest people to be provided with the latest and best advice, both for avoiding cancer and for recognising and dealing with it when it exists." He also wanted to see "homes" for cancer patients, where they would receive attention free or at low cost, and volunteer nurses who could tend to patients in their own homes.

Macmillan, a countryman from Somerset and a graduate of London University, became a civil servant at the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. His surprisingly radical and unbureaucratic views on cancer care were at least 50 years ahead of his time, and were inspired by watching, helplessly, as his father suffered from cancer of the oesophagus.

If Douglas Macmillan had been able to call upon Macmillan nurses, his father would have understood the troubles he was facing and his family would have been better able to comprehend any emotional turmoil. Macmillan Sr would have received adequate pain control, which remains a particular skill of Macmillan nurses. However, Douglas Macmillan — a seventh child — would not have had the magic even now to preserve the life of patients with carcinoma of the oesophagus, although the prognosis is improving.

In nearly all cases of adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus, mainly a disease of the over-60s, the tumour starts with pre-malignant changes — Barrett's metaplasia. Early detection may offer greater hope of recovery. The patient first notices difficulty in swallowing; this becomes progressive and persistent. Any difficulty in swallowing should be investigated immediately. The patient can usually point to the exact spot where the food sticks. Weight loss is common and, not surprisingly, there is early loss of appetite.



ham, at the piano. Other MPs will display unexpected talents — Sir Patrick Cormack, for instance, will recite a monologue and Alan Beith will blow his own trumpet.

On Friday next week, the soprano Susan Daniel will sing at Goodwood, where, at the invitation of Lady March, supporters will be dining in three state rooms and will see the house after four years of restoration. The occasion is sold out.

Douglas Macmillan died in 1969 at the age of 84. The charity he founded has a star-studded list of officers, including the Prince of Wales as patron and the Duchess of Kent as president. The annual expenditure on grants to patients has grown from just £11 in 1924 to £4.75 million. The charity employs 1,600 carefully selected and experienced nurses, many with postgraduate qualifications in palliative care and cancer nursing. Many also have educational experience, thereby fulfilling the hopes of Macmillan, who said in 1911:

● **Macmillan Cancer Relief information line for sufferers and their families: 0845 601 6161. Tickets for the Parliamentary Palace of Varieties, November 23 (chairman, Mrs Eira Jessel) from Charlotte Holmes: 0171-795 0055.**



Every picture tells a story: Doris London, a resident at the Emily Jackson Home in Sevenoaks, Kent, gives Sophie Smith, aged four, the benefit of her experience at a painting session

Giving new life to the old

Peter gazes at the woman across the room as she bends over the water painting in front of her. Then slowly, almost shyly, he walks towards her and kisses her: both bask in the glow of mutual affection. Peter is three years old and Doris — the object of his affections — is nearly 93.

On the far side of Europe, meanwhile, a vision from Hell. A wretched scrap of humanity lies on a grimy mattress, the face contorted. It is impossible to tell whether the creature is male or female as the eyes roll around a fly-blown room that is shared with eight other, similarly blighted human beings. The two scenes, one in Britain, the

other in the Romanian mountains, seem irreconcilable. But they are linked by Ros Ward, a middle-aged Englishwoman who is matron of an old people's home.

In Kent, Peter and Doris benefit from a scheme started by Ms Ward to open a children's nursery in the old people's home. It brings those taking their first steps in life together with those whose first memories are of horse-drawn carriages. Now Ms Ward plans to open a similar venture at a village in Romania's Carpathian Mountains.

Emily Jackson House in Sevenoaks was a conventional old people's home until a year ago when Ms Ward overcame a "mountain of objections" and opened the day nursery.

Now the ages of innocence and experience spend time together, reaping the same rewards that used to come from extended families. The scheme has been such a success that Westminster Health Care, which runs Emily Jackson House, plans to open more children's nurseries in some of the other 91 homes it operates. It is also backing Ms Ward in her scheme to help some of the abandoned and disabled children, and the elderly, suffering in Romania.

At Emily Jackson House, a group of people in their eighties and nineties gathers with a dozen or so three- and four-year-olds to mix paint and use cut potatoes as stencils. "These

"We have separate entrances — we don't want children rushing past people on Zimmer frames," says Ms Ward. "The children are pretty regimented as they go about the building. The residents can stay in their rooms or decide what they want."

"It took a year to overcome all the regulations and objections from the local authority and social services, including getting planning permission."

"My biggest fear was that the children and the elderly would catch things from one another. They are both frail in different ways," she adds. "But then there are aspects of both groups that are similar, for instance incontinence, pads and nappies are disposed of in the same way and the elderly need small, attractive meals, as do the children."

Rose Bresnahan, 71, came to the home two years ago and was depressed after a stroke. "There is a terrible fear that comes with handing over your life," says the former teacher. "I had always had my independence and was frightened when I arrived. Then the children came and that made it easier. I have nine grandchildren, so I like having children around."

Phyllis Claydon used to act with Errol Flynn. Now in her nineties, she has found a new role in life: teaching a three-year-old to crochet.

In the home for disabled in Timis, Romania, such light has yet to enter the lives of the residents. The man in charge is Dr George Grusea. He, another doctor and five nurses have four bathrooms for 101 inmates. Since most are stranded, limbless, on pallets, many sit and sleep in their own urine and faeces. "Physically, we should only be able to house 80 people," says Dr Grusea. "We cannot put up all those who need a place." Asked if he

has enough medicines to help his charges, he pauses, then says: "We hardly ever get anyone cured, and people rarely go home once they are here."

Now Ms Ward and her colleague, Liza Donoghue, are converting a building for a combined old people's nursing

home and shelter for sick and abandoned youngsters in Simepu, a few miles from Brasov. They plan to take 20 children and 16 elderly, and need to raise £150,000 through a charity, Care and Comfort Romania. But, says Ms Ward, they need £500,000 to run the centre for a year.

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Bicester (Cherwell Valley), Blyth (North), Burton in Kendall, Cardiff (West), Chippenham (Leigh Delamere), Edinburgh East, Exeter, Grantham (North), Grantham (South), Kinross, Lancaster (Foston), Manchester North (Mossburn), Newbury (Cheveley), Oxford, Portliff (Ferrybridge), Scotch Corner, Seven View, Sutton Scotney North, Sutton Scotney South, Swansea.

ROADSIDE SITES

Alfreton, Alton (Four Marks), Alwalton, Amesbury (Stonehenge), Balloch (Beds), Bangor, Barnsley, Barton Mills, Basildon, Basingstoke, Basingstoke (South West), Bedworth (Nuneaton), Billingshurst, Birmingham (Central), Birmingham East, Bognor Regis (Fontwell), Bournemouth, Bournemouth (South), Bournemouth (West), Burnley, Burton (South), Cambridge (West), Canterbury (North), Cardiff, Chester (Northop Hall), Chichester (West), Colchester, Cork, Crewkerne, Dorchester, Dorset, Droitwich, Dublin (Navan Road), Dudley (Birmingham), Dumfries, Dundee, Edinburgh South, Ely, Fressingfield, Glasgow (Hill Street), Grantham (New Road), Great Yarmouth (Aclif), Hallyn (N Wales), Hartlebury, Hellingly (Eastbourne), Hickstead, Hull (South Docks), Huntington, Ilminster, Ipswich (Beacon Hill), Ipswich (Capel), Ipswich (Stowmarket), Kilmarnock, Kings Lynn (Long Sutton), Leicester (North), Lincoln, Liphook (Hants), Littlehampton, Liphook (Cross Hands), London (Battersea), London (Hillfort), Ludlow, Macclesfield, Market Harborough, Milton Keynes, Newcastle East, Newcastle North, North Muskham, Northampton (Upton Way), Norwich, Oldham (East), Oldham (West), Oldbury, Oswestry, Oxford East, Penelope, Penrith, Pontefract (Barnsley), Preston (Chorley), Retford, Rugby, Sedgely, Sheffield, Sleaford, Sleaford (South), Sleaford, St Clears, St Helens, Stoke, Stonehouse, Stratford (Alcester), Sutton (Coldfield), Taunton, Telford, Thame, Thrapston, Tverton, Towcester (Silverstone), Uppingham, Ulkeston, Waterford (Ireland), Wellington, Widnes, Wirral (Bebington), Workson, Wrexham, Yeovil (Podimore), York.

people are so happy," says Ms Ward. "They know they are wanted and loved, and the children don't care if someone is in a wheelchair."

Several of the elderly residents have had their lives transformed by the children, says Ms Ward, and she is sure the death rate has been reduced since the day nursery opened last October. "We have had only 12 deaths in the past year, which is extremely low," she says. "The elderly have a right to live full lives."

Ms Ward, whose mother is one of the residents, points out several others who, she believes, had made up their minds to leave after moving in. "One lady who had a stroke came for a trial weekend and she was so depressed. Now she climbs the stairs, which is a real struggle, to spend time in the nursery."

There are 60 residents aged from 55 to 99, and 60 children aged between two and five at Emily Jackson House. The elderly are NHS and private residents, the latter paying around £500 a week. Parents of the infants pay £26 a day. Staff at the home can enrol their children at half price.

In the garden, children's slides find a place next to paths designed for wheelchairs. Old and young are encouraged to mix — if they want. But the two groups eat separately and any resident who finds small children less than appealing can keep them at bay — though most relish contact with the infants.

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THE TIMES • DILLON

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GEORGE SORC

THE CRISIS OF BUREA

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Soros: the man behind the money

Billionaire financier George Soros says he is not a material man. Jon Ashworth reports

George Soros is one of the great enigmas of our time. He is the consummate buccaneer, raking in billions of dollars through predatory assaults on the financial markets, yet he behaves like a pinstriped Robin Hood, ploughing his wealth into socially inspired causes. He claims to be able to divine patterns in the markets, but often gets it embarrassingly wrong. Consumed, or so he says, by self-doubt, he nevertheless feels confident enough to preach to world leaders about how to run their affairs.

and fans alike to pin him down on the issues of the day. His new book, *The Crisis of Global Capitalism*, a timely critique of the Asian crisis and its implications, will be serialised in *The Times* later this month.

Soros leapt into the British psyche in September 1992 when the Bank of England fought vainly to defend the pound against an assault by currency speculators. It spent £12 billion shoring up sterling against the mark before conceding defeat, leaving Britain to tumble out of the European exchange-rate mechanism. Soros made almost \$1 billion (£600 million) from Black Wednesday and became known as the Man Who Broke the Bank of England. A mere whisper that Soros is buying this or selling that can trigger a stampede. His utterances can send currencies sliding or soaring.

Soros's luck has changed of late, but his pronouncements still make headlines. In August a well-timed letter to the *Financial Times* sent Russian financial markets reeling and had a knock-on effect in Germany. Market analysts think that the Soros funds can only sold huge quantities of dollars against the mark, profiting handsomely as the currency fell.

Born in Budapest in 1930 into a middle-class Jewish family, he experienced both Nazism and Communism before emigrating to Britain in 1947. At the London School of Economics he fell under the influence of Karl Popper, the philosopher and author of *The Open Society and its Enemies*. Popper's writings gave Soros a conceptual framework in which to seek out and predict imbalances in world markets. Placing huge bets on what he thought might happen, and cashing in handsomely when it went his way, made Soros his fortune. Popper's vision of an open society — one that tolerates different views and interests — later shaped Soros's philanthropic activities.

After graduating from the LSE, Soros endured a miserable stint selling souvenirs in seaside resorts in Wales before

joining Singer & Friedlander, the City merchant bank. He had earlier worked as a British Rail porter. Lacking the requisite old school tie, Soros found his ambitions frustrated.

He decamped again in 1956, to New York, and worked on Wall Street for 13 years before branching out on his own. In 1969 he set up Quantum Fund, registered in Curacao but run from Manhattan, and began investing on behalf of wealthy private individuals, scouring the world for mis-priced assets.

Soros's line in global arbitrage was a spectacular success. A \$1,000 investment in Quantum in 1969 would be worth more than \$3 million today, despite well-publicised setbacks. Quantum and its sister funds are worth, perhaps, \$18 billion.

By the late 1970s, Soros was rich enough to start thinking about channelling his wealth into philanthropic ventures. He established his first foundation, the Open Society Fund, in 1979, and today oversees non-profit foundations and organisations in 31 countries. His agenda spans education, publishing and human rights, as well as social, legal and economic reform.

In Russia Soros distributed \$20 million among 40,000 top scientists and spent millions more on electronic communications and scientific literature. A Russian foundation, set up in 1987, invested heavily in educational reform, printing textbooks free of Marxist



Soros's second wife, Susan

ideology. In the United States Soros is channelling money into such social ills as drug addiction, which he thinks should be treated as a public health problem, not a crime. He has called for marijuana to be legalised for medical purposes and has set up a \$50 million fund to help immigrants deprived of welfare benefits. Soros's homespun brand of philanthropy is not always welcomed by domestic authorities, however, many of whom consider him a meddling. On another level he complains that he is not taken seriously, that his theories are seen as merely the self-indulgent musings of a man who has



George Soros established his first foundation, the Open Society Fund, in 1979 and today oversees non-profit foundations and organisations in 31 countries

made a lot of money on the stock market. Soros got it right with the pound in 1992, but his approach is hit and miss. Quantum reputedly lost \$600 million in two days when an \$8 billion punt on the yen went awry. Soros lost about \$650 million in the October 1987 stock market crash — making him the biggest single loser — when he shifted out of Tokyo and into Wall Street, just as the latter caved in. He knew something was coming, but couldn't quite tell where.

Soros enjoys reading and plays tennis and chess. Married to his second wife, Susan, he has five children, and homes in Manhattan and London. A very private and intellectual man, he endured unwelcome publicity in Britain in 1991, when a former butler took him to an industrial tribunal, claiming unfair dismissal. It was alleged that the household cook was given to chucking 500 bottles of Chateau-Lafite into the evening gush, a smear strenuously denied by Soros's entourage.

Patrick Davison, the aggrieved butler, portrayed Soros as a rather absent-minded soul who used to set off on journeys, then ring his office to find out where he was meant to be going. He once had to be stopped from wandering off to a meeting in his slippers. Parcels used to turn up from hotels all over Europe containing items Soros had left behind.

In September 1997, with the Asian crisis erupting, Soros became embroiled in a public slanging match with Mahathir Mohamad, Malaysia's Prime Minister. Beset by economic problems, and with Malaysia literally under a pall from the region's forest fires, Dr Mahathir launched an at-

tack on "immoral" financial speculators, and described Soros as a "moron". Soros hit back, describing Dr Mahathir as "a menace to his country". Meltdown in Asia, and its toll on world markets, has given Soros deep cause for concern — hence his critique of the current financial turmoil. He talks of a "wrecking ball" effect and believes that the world's entire economic system is under threat. His solution is to call for restraints on the free movement of capital — ironically, for one who made his fortune exploiting this very system. Who knows, it may happen, but for now, there is money to be made, and Soros is not one to miss out on the fun.

GEORGE SOROS LSE

THE CRISIS OF GLOBAL CAPITALISM

George Soros, the legendary financier and philanthropist, will debate the causes of and offer bold solutions to the current global meltdown at this LSE debate on Monday, 7 December which marks the publication of his new book "The Crisis of Global Capitalism: Open Society Endangered".

Chaired by Professor Anthony Giddens, director of LSE, Soros will be challenged by Mervyn King, Deputy Governor, Bank of England and Anatole Kaletsky, Associate Editor of The Times. There will be an opportunity for questions from the audience.

The debate will be held at 7pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. Tickets are £10 and £7.50 for concessions (students, over 60s and the unemployed on production of valid ID) and include £2.00 off the price of the book (Little, Brown, £17.99).

Booking form with fields for Name, Address, Postcode, Day Phone, and Cheque No. Includes a section for "I enclose my cheque made payable to Dillons the Bookstore" and "I enclose my Visa/Mastercard/Amex/Discover/Delta card No".

Please post coupon and remittance to: The LSE Debate Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ Tel: 0171 467 1613 (24-hr/7-day Voicemail). Please note that tickets will be posted until December 1 only. Tickets booked after this date will be held for collection on the night at the venue. If you do not receive your tickets please call 0171 636 1577 to confirm your booking.

THE TIMES • DILLONS • FORUM

A whisper about what he is buying can start a stampede

This much prostate cancer

Although 3 out of 10 men over the age of 50 get prostate cancer...and although it kills over 9,000 men each year in the UK, causing so much pain and suffering...scientists simply haven't had the resources to break significant new ground in prostate cancer research.

As if that wasn't bad enough, the general public has been poorly informed about the early symptoms that should send men rushing to their doctors.

There is some good news, though. AICR is poised to launch a major programme which we hope will protect men here in Britain — and eventually worldwide — from this 'hidden' killer.

Our first step has been to produce a helpful guide, *Prostate Cancer: Signs & Symptoms*, which is yours for the asking, absolutely free.

Form for requesting the free guide, including fields for Name, Address, Postcode, and a checkbox for "I'll support the Spotlight Appeal with a donation of £".

Our second step is to raise the funds we need to tackle prostate cancer with the kind of determination and enthusiasm that has so dramatically improved the survival rate for women with breast cancer.

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ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH. Charity No. SC022918. Reason: The Earl of St Andrews.

Small text at the bottom left of the page, including "UNIT 47" and "M&A Group".

THE TIMES OBITUARIES

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 16: The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman, this afternoon gave a Lunch and chaired a Meeting of the Trustees of the Duke of Edinburgh Award International Association at Buckingham Palace.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold an Investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00. The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Life Member of the British Sub-Aqua Club, will present Sir Duke of Edinburgh's Prize at Buckingham Palace at 10.00.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. Cunningham Forsyth and Miss A.E. McGregor The engagement is announced between Ben, son of Mrs Isobel Forsyth and the late Mr Claude Cunningham Forsyth, of Edinburgh, and Ann Frances, daughter of Mrs Sheila McGregor Hinjens, of Edinburgh, and Mr Frans M.J. Hinjens, of Antwerp, Belgium.



Jenifer Wright, Andrej Jovanic and Ann Allen, students at the Royal Academy of Music, try out some of the rare 19th-century Italian mandolins and lutes at the Fine Art and Antiques Fair which opened at Olympia, London, last night

Memorial services

Sir Ralph Freeman The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Mr John Parsons at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Ralph Freeman, consulting engineer, held yesterday at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey.

Birthdays today

Ms Lesley Abdel, chief executive officer, Project Parity, 53; Sir Jeremy Bechem, former chairman, Association of Metropolitan Authorities, 54; Admiral Sir Jeremy Black, 66; Dr S.L. Bragg, aeronautical engineer, 75; Dr G. Bulmer, former Rector, Liverpool Polytechnic, 78; Mr Danny DeVin, actor, 54; Mr John Dobson, 68; Mr David Emanuel, fashion designer, 46; Miss Fenella Fieldings, orthopaedic surgeon, 67; the Rev Dr Kenneth Greet, former President, Methodist Conference, 82; General Sir Charles Guthrie, 60; Sir Jeremy Hanley, former MP, 53; Mr P.R.S. Harman, comptroller-general and chief executive, the Patent Office, 56; Mr Colin Hayes, painter, 79; Professor Anthony King, Professor of Government, Essex University, 64; Sir John Lowther, former Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, 75; Sir Charles Mackenzie, conductor, 73; Professor Ravinder Malni, rheumatologist, 61; Sir Leslie Murphy, former non-executive director, P&O Group, 83; Mr Richard Parham, managing director, Peugeot Motor Company, 54; Lord Polwarth, 82; Professor L.H. Rees, former Dean, St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School, 56; Mr Jonathan Ross, broadcaster, 26; the Right Rev John Satterthwaite, former Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, 73; Dr David Saul, former Premier of Bermuda, 59; Mr Martin Scorsese, film director, 56; the Earl of Winchelsea, 62.

Dinners

The Royal Academy of Engineering, The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Fellow of The Royal Academy of Engineering, attended the 1998 Fellows' Dinner held last night at the Drapers' Hall, London. The Speech of Welcome was given by the President, Sir David Davies, CBE, FEng, FRSE. The Senior Fellow presented the prizes to Neil Fellowes and Mr David Hall, FEng, Chairman of Nortel Ltd, responded on behalf of the New Fellows.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Louis XVIII, King of France 1755-1824, Versailles, 1755; Augustus, astronomer, Schulpforta, Germany, 1790; Bernardo Law Montgomery, 1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, London, 1887; Queen Astrid, Consort of King Leopold III of Belgium, Stockholm, 1905; Rex Hudson, actor, Winnetka, Illinois, 1925.

DEATHS: Queen Mary I (Mary Tudor), reigned 1553-58, London, 1558; Augustus Rodin, sculptor, Meudon, France, 1917; Eric Gill, artist, sculptor and typographer, Hatfield, Herts, 1935.

Musicians' Company

The Master of the Musicians' Company, Professor Malcolm King, presided at the Installation Dinner and Annual Awards Ceremony held at Merchant Taylors' Hall. The principal guests were Professor Sir James Black, FRSE, and Professor Roma McKie, FRSE. The Davidoff Quartet entertained, accompanied by The Master, Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne was among the guests.

Sir Denys Buckley

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Denys Buckley will be held in Lincoln's Inn Chapel at 5.00pm on Monday, November 30.

New ambassador

Mr Anthony Layden has been appointed Ambassador to Morocco in succession to Mr William Fullerton who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service.

Corporation of London

The Lord Mayor, Alderman Lord Levens of Porlock, accompanied by the Mayor, Alderman Sir Richard Nichols, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Prime Minister and the Lord Chancellor were the speakers. Among those present were: Mr Blair, Mr Caley, Lady Irvine of Lairg, the President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons, Mr Lord Rickett, the Speaker, the Hon Oliver Letwin, the Leader of the House of Lords and Professor W. A. D. King, the Governor of the Bank of England and Mrs George, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions and Mrs Foythall, the Lord Chancellor and Lady Bingham of Cornhill, the Master of the Rolls and Lady Woolf, the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice of Appeal, the Vice-Chancellor of the Chancery Division and Lady Scott, Lord Justice Goff, Lord Justice and Lady Henry.

Luncheon

Mr Geoffrey Martin, Head of Representation of the European Commission in the United Kingdom, was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the Guild of Editors Parliamentary and Legal Committee held yesterday at Bloomsbury House. Mr Nick Carter, chairman of the Guild and Editor of the Leicester Mercury, presided.

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DEATHS: RYAN - On November 10th in Dublin, to Jacinta (née West) and Robert, a husband and father of two, Isabella, a sister to Harriet, Lucas and Fitzan and cousin to Marissa.

DEATHS: COLE - Jonathan Richard died suddenly at home on Sunday November 16th. He was 67 years old. He was a devoted father and devoted father of two boys and a devoted father of two girls.

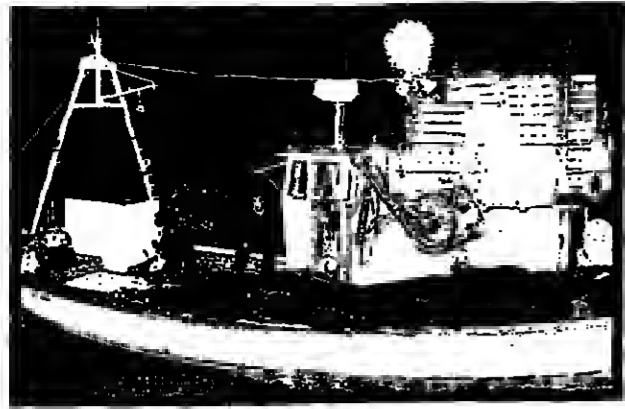
DEATHS: HAMILTON - Denis Frederic, on 4th November at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, Gloucester, aged 82 years. He was a devoted husband and father of two boys and a devoted father of two girls.

DEATHS: STEPHENSON - Gilbert Lawrence OBE, 10th November 1908, died peacefully at his home in Harrow after a short illness. He was 89 years old. He was a devoted husband and father of two boys and a devoted father of two girls.

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THE FIVES... Michael Knipe

Michael Knipe reports on Gibraltar's drive for full self-government and some fishy goings-on in British waters



Actions of Spanish boats have resulted in protests

Anglo-Spanish accord caught in fishing row

Fishing by Spanish boats in British waters off Gibraltar is exacerbating the problems at the land frontier and threatening to derail British and Spanish government efforts to improve bilateral relations through a prime ministerial meeting in the spring.

Spanish fishing boats have been entering the Bay of Gibraltar in larger boats and greater numbers this year. They are fishing with nets and rakes, which contravenes Gibraltar's fish conservation regulations, and are refusing to move on when asked by the Royal Gibraltar Police.

Sir Richard Luce, the Governor of Gibraltar, who, under its Constitution, retains responsibility for defence and law and order, expressed concern that the situation could escalate into violence and said London had protested strongly to Madrid over the incursions.

Sir Richard has described the actions as provocative and intimidating. "This represents an unacceptable challenge to British jurisdiction and control of our waters," he says.

In what seems to be concerted action, Spanish customs officials and police at the land frontier have been checking passports particularly slowly recently, causing queues of more than three hours for mo-

Bound for a modernised link with Britain

Specific proposals for changes to Gibraltar's Constitution, designed to end its 294-year-old colonial status, are under discussion between the Gibraltar Government and the Foreign Office.

This will be the most significant constitutional development for Gibraltar since the introduction of a written Constitution 30 years ago with which the British Parliament established Gibraltar's Legislative Council and House of Assembly and gave it domestic self-government.

A joint working party of three Gibraltarians and three Foreign Office officials met in October to hammer out the details. Another meeting is due to take place later this month and Peter Caruana, Gibraltar's Chief Minister, is hoping to conclude this phase of the process by the end of the year. "We have put together detailed ideas of how we would like our Constitution modernised while preserving British sovereignty, as Gibraltarians are keen to do," Mr Caruana says.

"The joint working party is going through them to see what the distance is between us in terms of what we want and what the UK may be willing to give. This is a preliminary step, and as soon as it is concluded, the next stage will be to widen the consultation process by convening a select committee of the Gibraltar Parliament. This will not just consider the Government's proposals, but will also take evidence and opinions from the widest possible cross-section of the community in the hope that a consensus view will emerge that we can then put to the British Government."

The resulting document will be put to the people in a referendum which, he says, would meet UN requirements on self-determination. There would be no breach of the Treaty of Utrecht, under which Spain ceded its sovereignty of Gibraltar to Britain in 1713.

"In our view," Mr Caruana says, "this would end the colonial status of Gibraltar and constitute a tailor-made fourth option to decolonisation provided for in the relevant UN resolution on decolonisation."

While Mr Caruana hopes that this will clarify Gibraltar's status internationally, he does not expect it to put an end to Spain's claim to sovereignty

over Gibraltar. He believes that the British Government should adopt a much tougher stand against Madrid, which he says is leading a campaign of pressure and harassment against Gibraltar's inhabitants.

Spanish frontier guards persistently subject traffic across the land frontier to delays. Maritime and air links between Gibraltar and Spain are still blocked. Gibraltar's telephone communications are heavily restricted and Gibraltarians are often discouraged from participating in international events.

"Britain's present policy of not engaging or calling Spain sufficiently to account is ineffectual and counterproductive," says Mr Caruana. "It encourages a Spanish hard line since Madrid knows that it can pursue this policy with impunity."

"Spain will not moderate its actions until Britain begins to exercise leverage. If no one calls the country to book about it, then it will continue to do so."

"The UK and, indeed, other member states that also have responsibilities in this respect should insist that Spain does not engage in such un-European measures. It cannot get out of its obligations under the Treaty of Rome simply because it has a historical claim to sovereignty over Gibraltar. Yet the European member states are allowing Madrid to get away with precisely that attitude."

Mr Caruana says that Britain and European member states should make it clear to Madrid that there is a price to pay for adopting such obstructive policies. Britain should use selective action against Spain for its "unhelpful, obstructive and un-European attitude towards Gibraltar". He insists that it is Britain's constitutional, political and moral obligation to uphold and defend Gibraltar's legal rights and legitimate aspirations.

Mr Caruana says that the Foreign Office has facilitated the meetings of the working parties and is not impeding the Gibraltar Government's proposals, so long as they do not transgress the 1713 treaty. Under its terms, Spain ceded sovereignty over the Rock to Britain in perpetuity and Britain agreed to offer Gibraltar to



'Britain should make it clear to Spain that there is a price to pay for its unhelpful and obstructive attitude towards Gibraltar' Peter Caruana Chief Minister, Gibraltar



The House of Assembly: constitutional change may be looming

Spain should it ever wish to relinquish sovereignty. It is a promise successive governments in Madrid have kept close to their hearts while flouting the terms of the treaty.

Mr Caruana concedes that there has been some concern at the Foreign Office over how Spain would react to the constitutional changes that are being planned. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has reassured him on this. "I drew encouragement from that."

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Offshore banking draws the funds

IN INSURANCE, banking and investment services. Gibraltar's regulatory and supervisory procedures are as high and as strict as the City of London's, and its membership of the European Union gives it an advantage over many other offshore centres. So the Rock's offshore financial business is growing.

The banking sector grew by 15 per cent over the past 12 months. Much of this business has stemmed from the investment service needs of what bankers call "Hinwis" - high net worth individuals.

Along with more modestly financed retirees, many wealthy expatriates live in the Iberian peninsula. Gibraltar provides many of them with financial services they feel they can trust. There are more than 30 banks and other financial institutions based on the Rock offering a full range of banking services, along with a host of accountancy firms, including five of the big six international concerns, and more lawyers per capita than anywhere else in the world, most of

whom specialise in handling tax-exempt companies, trusts and other complex financial services.

Anthony Fisher, the development director of the Gibraltar Finance Centre, says: "Tailored banking services to wealthy expatriates is something in which we have great experience and is a key growth area."

"The wealthy expatriate community in the Iberian peninsula is growing faster than anywhere else in the world."

One of the attractions of Gibraltar is that, so long as they have residential accommodation on the Rock for at least seven months a year and live there for at least 30 days, high net worth individuals can have their tax capped at £20,000.

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Michael Knipe on Gibraltar's plans to be a lucrative business hub between southwest Europe and North Africa

The Rock's on an economic roll

For 30,000 people living on a plot of land not much bigger than Hyde Park, Gibraltarians have made remarkable strides in the 16 years that have elapsed since the ending of Gibraltar's role as a military garrison and Royal Navy dockyard.

Tourists from cruise liners and thousands of shoppers from across the frontier with Spain still throng the central part of Main Street, the curious blend of British high street and Mediterranean bazaar, where English-style pubs and fish and chip shops abound. And "Llanito", a form of Spanish, reverberates around the buildings now that motorised traffic has been banished.

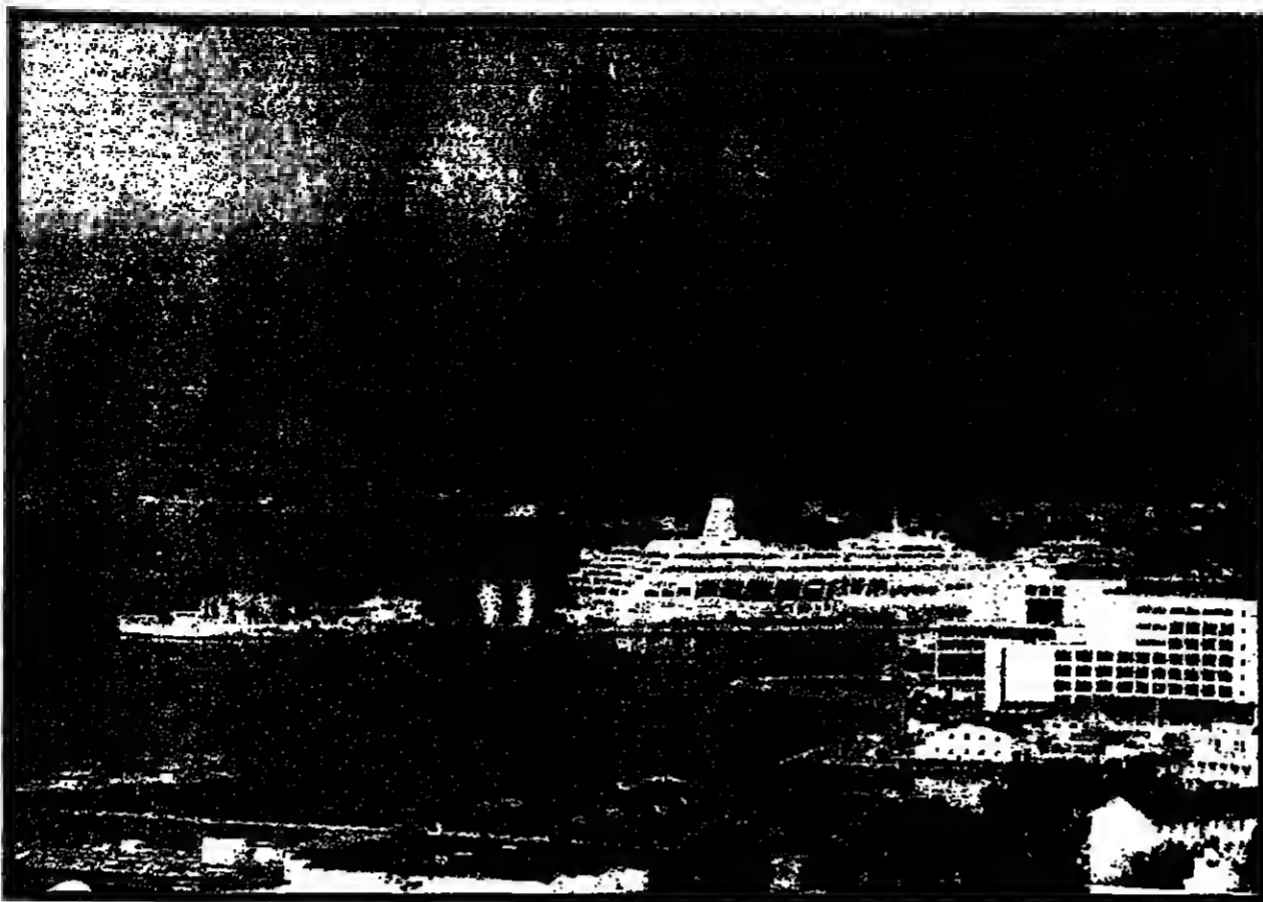
In the past few years the Rock has revitalised its economy and shed its reputation as a centre for drug-smuggling and money-laundering. Its well-regulated and supervised activities as a financial centre have been held up by the British authorities as a benchmark for offshore probity.

With no obvious resources other than its strategic location, the community has managed to become self-sufficient, requiring no budgetary contributions from Britain. There are about 20,000 Gibraltarians descended from Genoese, Maltese, Spanish, Portuguese, Moroccan and Sephardic Jews who settled on the Rock after an Anglo-Dutch force captured it in 1704. Only about 100 Spaniards stayed on.

Today Gibraltar's port has become the largest ship-bunkering facility in the Mediterranean. The Gibunko Group, which owns and operates a fleet of dedicated bunker-supply vessels, delivers more than 2.5 million tonnes of bunker fuels to more than 3,500 ships a year — more than two thirds of the Gibraltar market — compared with the 250,000 tonnes it delivered ten years ago. The number of merchant vessels calling at the port is expected to be more than 5,500 this year, compared with 3,700 last year.

To provide the necessary commercial space within the port to expand the range of services, £10 million has been earmarked for reclamation work to lengthen a jetty and to reclaim more land between some existing berths.

Joe Holliday, the Minister of Tourism, says: "Gibraltar is on a straight line between the Americas and Suez Canal, so



Gibraltar's port has become the largest ship-bunkering facility in the Mediterranean — and it is getting bigger

it is well placed to become a hub for southwest Europe and North Africa."

The privatised dockyard, now owned and operated by Cammell Laird, is doubling its workforce this year. A £3 million wine bottling plant, said to be the most modern in Europe, opened last summer, and in the new year Gibraltar will become host to three telecommunications satellite ground stations servicing Asia, Africa and Europe, which will bring big licensing fees, as well as new jobs in telecommunications.

As for the tourism and financial services sectors, they are going from strength to strength. Per capita income is £11,623 and the Gibraltar Government expects to make a budgetary surplus of £12 million to £15 million this year.

Paul Canessa, the telecommunications regulator designate, says the attractions of Gibraltar for the satellite stations were not only its location, but also its favourable tax regime and English-based legal jurisdiction.

In the financial services sector there is some concern over the eventual impact of European Union and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development codes aimed at curbing what is regarded as harmful tax competi-

tion. But the Government is conducting a complete review and restructuring of its taxation and public finance regulations to ensure that the tax system does not fall foul of the codes.

Beyond that, many Gibraltarians see the Rock's economic future being more broadly based on its developing role as a financial, communications and administrative entrepôt at the heart of an embryonic western Mediterranean region.

In a rare display of political co-operation, Peter Montegriffo, the Minister for Trade and Industry, hosted a lunch in Brussels last month at which delegations from the Spanish provinces of Andalusia and

Murcia took part fully in the proceedings, despite Madrid's claim to Gibraltar's sovereignty. The aim was to launch a regional grouping to develop economic links between southwest Europe and northwest Africa. Called the West Mediterranean Economic Forum, it includes Morocco, Tunisia and Malta, as well as Gibraltar and the two Spanish regions.

Mr Montegriffo says: "It is an initiative we want to expand. We are moving towards trying to consolidate the efforts of the forum by getting private sector companies to participate."

After the meeting, Mr Montegriffo brought together a doz-

en of the leading private sector concerns operating in Gibraltar, including banks, telecommunications companies and legal firms and urged them to join the initiative. He says: "Gibraltar is prepared to put up 50 per cent of the costs undertaken by the private sector."

The forum has the political backing of the European Union. The need for action in the western Mediterranean has been underlined by the increasingly desperate attempts by young Moroccans to flee into southern Europe because of the economic problems bedevilling their own country.

"This summer there have been hundreds trying to cross



Holliday: well suited

When the P&O cruise liner Victoria docks at Gibraltar at the end of her Mediterranean summer cruise season later this month and her 714 passengers disembark, to be replaced by a further 714 setting off for the first of the ship's winter Caribbean cruises, it will be the first time for many years that Gibraltar has acted as a cruise line terminus. It is unlikely to be the last.

The Gibraltar Government has spent £600,000 converting a derelict warehouse on the western arm of the port into a state-of-the-art cruise terminal, with 1,400ft in quay space. There is provision to expand the building to cater for the extensive baggage handling, check-in facilities and security arrangements that will be required for large-scale light-and-cruise operations.

Several American cruise line companies have expressed an interest in using the Rock as a terminus, says Tony Davis, the chief executive of the Gibraltar Tourism Board. He is setting off next week for the United States to discuss the possibilities further.

"Gibraltar is particularly well suited to be developed in this way," says Joe Holliday, the Minister of Tourism, who is also responsible for the development of the port. "It is only two-and-a-half hours' flying time from London, the air and sea ports are close to each other and there can be few places that offer such a choice of attractions to people who wish to spend a few days ashore before or after a cruise."

The promotion of Gibraltar's potential as a luxury cruise terminus is the latest stage in the Government's plan to upgrade Gibraltar's tourism profile after years as a garrison

Tourism's future lies in cruise control

and dockyard facility. It is now beginning to reap the benefits of substantial investment.

The number of cruise ships calling at Gibraltar has risen from 99 last year to more than 140 this year, says George Gaggero, the chairman of the Gibraltar Shipping Association and deputy chairman of MH Bland, a shipping and tourism company. For next year, he says, there are already 165 visits booked by cruise liners.

Four main tourism sectors are now being specifically targeted by the Government: cruise liners, ocean-going yachting, and the short-break and conference markets. Niche markets such as diving and birdwatching are also being carefully cultivated.

More than six million people will have visited the Rock this year — up by a million since 1995. A big attraction for many of the day visitors from across the frontier is the VAT-free shopping but the Government is now promoting the Rock's potential in the UK and Spain as a short-break destination.

More than £5 million has been spent, in a mixture of grants and soft loans, matched by the investment of private money, on refurbishing and modernising hotels and developing conference facilities. The Rock has 1,200 visitors' beds and occupancy rates are rising. Another £2.5 million is being spent on renovating and pedestrianising Main Street and the narrow lanes surrounding it.

"We have much to offer as a short-break conference centre," says James Gaggero, George Gaggero's cousin and deputy chairman of GB Airways, which is now a BA franchise. "This includes access to some of Europe's top golf courses within a 15-mile radius."



Montegriffo: role to play

the straits in pretty frail vessels," says Mr Montegriffo. "Many have lost their lives and most of those who land safely on the Spanish coast after the 24km voyage are simply put back on their boats and sent away."

Mr Montegriffo takes the view that Gibraltar can play a role in bolstering the economic development and therefore the stability of the region by acting primarily as a facilitator. "We are a small economy in the context of the region," he says, "but we can provide a banking centre, insurance services and administrative work, so I think we have a role to play in the region."

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In 1989 a Gibunco subsidiary undertook the physical supply of bunker fuels at the Port of Gibraltar when the total market volume stood at 250,000 MT. Today, companies forming part of the Gibunco Group, own and operate a fleet of bunker supply vessels, delivering over 1,500,000 MT of bunker fuels, over two thirds of the total Gibraltar market. To support this, Peninsula Petroleum Ltd., a Gibraltar UK company, generates sales of over 300,000 MT of bunker fuels.

These investments have transformed commercial life in the Port of Gibraltar, now the largest bunkering port in the Mediterranean. The Group's shipping interests are further supported from its offices in London, Middle East and Spain.

INVESTING IN ECONOMIC GROWTH

Diversification has been the key to the success of the Gibunco Group. Its extensive marine activities have been augmented by on-shore projects, including joint ventures, under the Montagu Group, in land reclamation and property development in Gibraltar, building over 2000 apartments in the last decade.

The industrial, technological and social development of Gibraltar and the protection of its environment are of paramount concern to the Gibunco Group. A recent proposed and government-backed joint venture to upgrade importation, storage and distribution facilities for automotive, aviation and public utilities fuels demonstrates the Group's commitment in this vital area.

In the years ahead the Gibunco Group will continue to use its knowledge, experience and resources to create further business opportunities thereby adding to its success while enhancing the economic prospects of the region.

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Advisers wary about US-style company rescues

By Rodney Hobson

PROSPECTS of a Chapter 11 procedure being introduced in the UK to help struggling companies to avoid going into liquidation have received a lukewarm reception.

Business experts feel that Chapter 11, a provision that allows US companies a moratorium from payment demands by creditors, is overrated and that the UK is already improving its methods of saving companies.

Proposals could be included in the Queen's Speech this month. Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, told the Commons Trade and Industry Committee that, when parliamentary time allowed, the Government would introduce legislation to allow a company to obtain a stay on creditor actions for up to three months.

Peter Copp, a partner in BDO Stoy Hayward, the business advisers, sums up the general view, saying, "Studies show that Chapter 11 does not work well. We don't seem to be good at showing people how well our own system works. We are quite successful at saving businesses. Chapter 11 gets a lot of publicity because of high-profile cases such as Braniff Airlines. A relatively small number of companies that go into Chapter 11 come out of it. It is more cumbersome and costly than our system."

Tony Houghton, of Kidsons Impey, one of the top ten UK chartered accountancy firms and a specialist in owner-managed businesses, says that only about 5 to 6 per cent of companies entering Chapter 11 subsequently recover.

Scott Barnes, head of corporate rescue for Grant Thornton, also cautions against holding up Chapter 11 as a shining example of how to rescue struggling companies. He says: "You find that many Chapter 11 cases do not work out and



Copp: no fan of Chapter 11

the company still slides into liquidation. There is far from general agreement that this is the best way.

"We have got procedures already with administration and company voluntary arrangements (CVAs) and these need tweaking rather than going in for a wholesale change that is potentially dangerous," Rupert Connell, of Hobson Audley Hopkins and Wood, the firm of solicitors, has had experience of Chapter 11 procedures representing an English company that was part of a US group. He says: "I don't think that Chapter 11 is as effective as it is cracked up to be over here. Chapter 11 is phenomenally expensive. You can't move without lawyers and court hearings. There is a court hearing for just about everything. In a

way it is better to have an informal arrangement. Banks are taking more interest in company voluntary arrangements and that is an encouraging trend. The banks are trying to work these things out with their customers. Even receivership can be expensive and, at the end of the day, the banks are going to be paying for it."

Mr Mandelson indicated in a speech to the British American Chamber of Commerce in New York last month that businessmen with previous failures should not be prevented from taking further risks.

Mr Houghton retorts: "This makes the assumption that it is the bankrupt who has been the risk-taker. In reality, it is the unpaid creditors who have been the risk-takers. As cash gets tighter, the business can only go on trading because suppliers allow longer and longer periods of credit. They have no real knowledge of the financial position of their customer and continue to supply on assurances and because they need the business."

Mr Barnes suggests that Mr Mandelson might be thinking of introducing a moratorium provision into the existing CVA arrangements. He says: "The problem with CVAs is not so much creditors diving in to take the assets, but that the company has simply run out of money. Where is the funding coming from to keep the company going during the moratorium? Who will be in charge? Often it will be the directors who got the company into trouble in the first place. This must not become a rogues' charter."

Mr Connell says that although company failures have started to increase, there are no signs of a return to the dramatic scale of collapses in the late 1980s and early 1990s. But he adds: "Banks are still exposed to the risk that any other creditor may undermine what is being achieved and force the banks to give up on a rescue."



Carole Nash, from a kitchen-table start, has built a 125-employee firm getting classic motorcycles such as her 1925 Triumph insured

Redundancy leads to triumph for Queen of the Motorbikes

Customers call Carole Nash the Queen of the Motorbikes. This month, her motorcycle insurance intermediary business, Carole Nash Insurance Consultants, which claims to be the UK's largest, finally hit a £10 million annual turnover. It has 85,000 policyholders, employs 125 staff and is soon to open an Irish office.

Mrs Nash's employed career had been in motor insurance, her last job being with Sentry, the Manchester insurance company, running general motorcycle insurance alongside a vintage motorcycle scheme designed for the Vintage Motor Cycle Club. Finding herself jobless when Sentry shut its Manchester office, Mrs Nash asked it to let her take over the vintage scheme, which she says was "dinking over" with just 500 clients.

Starting out on her kitchen table in 1985, Mrs Nash had little more in the way of busi-

A small firm has built big turnover by listening closely to its insurance clients' needs, Wendy Smith reports

ness assets than a telephone balanced on the window sill, an adding machine and an essential professional indemnity policy, bought for £1,200 with her redundancy money.

"Business started to mushroom quietly," she says. "Policyholders liked the fact that I wasn't working from a proper office environment and I was there to chat and listen to their needs about their beloved bikes."

Turnover in her first year of trading was £30,000. Four years on, she moved out of her kitchen and into her garage, with turnover up to £750,000.

Mrs Nash eventually gave up the domestic approach to her business and put it on a more orthodox footing in 1989, opening her first office just outside Altrincham.

Mrs Nash attributes success to her personal touch, her love of bikes, and her high profile in the predominantly male biking community. She has been appointed to offices in the Federation Internationale des Vehicules Anciens and the Vintage Motor Cycle Club and now owns a bike collection including a 1914 BSA Combination.

She believes that if she had been aggressive in her marketing policy, she would not have done so well. "People urged me to expand, but I felt it was all too rapid," she said. "I have always been cautious in my approach to the business."

That caution and the nature of her business have seen her through ups and downs in the economy. Furthermore, motorcycle sales are reportedly soaring. Mrs Nash says bikers love their machines — old or new — and go to great lengths to keep them. When clients have faced hard times, she has had them pay in instalments.

Although her son, Malcolm, is now technical director of the company, Mrs Nash went outside the company to bolster her boardroom — a move she describes as her biggest decision. For two years, Damian Keeling, formerly her accountant, has been managing director. This lets Mrs Nash, as chairman, focus on promoting the company and investigating opportunities in its fast-growing area, modern bikes.

"I have applied the same philosophy to my modern bike policyholders as with the classic bikers," she says. "Listen to what the individual really wants and build a policy round their specific needs."



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American Norwegian All Black stakes his claim



Noel Whelan, left, scores for Coventry against Everton on Sunday. Whelan features in both the leading Fantasy team (These Eat Beans) and this week's winners

On the lookout for a goalkeeper at a reasonable price? Fancy avoiding the obvious big-time internationals like Schmeichel, Seaman and Bosnich? Well, in our time-honoured tradition of throwing a little-known name at you, may we recommend one Espen Baardsen?

Admittedly, Baardsen is hardly in the unknown category, and anyone who has seen his recent performances for Tottenham Hotspur will certainly have noted his qualities, but it is worth drawing attention to a player who has emerged from the shadow of an England player — and, unlike Alex Manninger, his counterpart at Arsenal, must have a good chance of remaining first-choice.

Like many Tottenham players, Ian Walker, the England international goalkeeper, appeared to suffer from a shortfall in confidence as they struggled to avoid relegation last season, and made a poor start to this

campaign. Baardsen, born in the United States, but who earned a place in the Norway World Cup squad in France, although he did not play, was a ready-made replacement and has impressed as George Graham has improved the Spurs defence. In Saturday's match at

Highbury, Baardsen helped keep the Gunners at bay with a series of excellent saves. Not that he is yet the finished product — remember his clearance was charged down by Michael Owen for Liverpool's consolation goal in Tottenham's 3-1 Worthington Cup win at Anfield last week.

"An excellent shot-stopper," George Graham, the Spurs manager, said, but added: "He's got a little bit of learning to do yet. He's got to command his area a bit more."

Even so, Graham has been sufficiently impressed by Baardsen to offer him an improved five-year contract. Not bad for a player acquired on a free transfer from San Francisco All Blacks.

The implications for Baardsen as a potential member of your Fantasy League team are obvious. Graham built his great Arsenal team on solid defence, and has stated his intention of doing the same at White Hart Lane. If Baardsen remains first-choice goalkeeper, he is likely to be playing behind an increasingly impenetrable back four, with clean sheets the norm rather than the exception.

One-nil to the Tottenham, once the unlikelyst of scores, may become a regular chant in N17 — and three Fantasy League points to Espen Baardsen.

Hotline: 01582 702720.



Baardsen: fine show against Arsenal

Nigel Winterburn: top full back with 18 points

Gareth Southgate: good pairing with Ehiogwu

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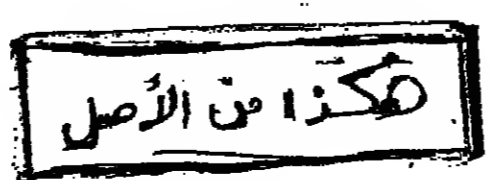
Select a team of 11 Premiership players from those listed right. The total value of your team must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose more than one player from the same Premiership club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation with: one goalkeeper; two full-backs; two centre-backs; four midfielders; and two forwards.

TO ENTER BY POST Name your team on the entry form, left, in no more than 16 characters. Enter the correct three-digit player codes from the list, right, followed by the players' names. Enter the first three characters of each player's team under the heading CLUB, ie, LEE for Leeds. Also enter the value of each player shown on the list right. Add up the values of the 11 players in your team and make

sure the total does not exceed £50m. Send your entry to the address shown, with a cheque/PO for £2.50 (£10 sterling outside UK or RoI) or your credit-card details. You will get confirmation of your team and your personal identity number (PIN) on receipt of your entry form. Readers under 18 should seek parental permission before entering. They must state their date of birth and indicate if they wish to enter our Youth League. **LUCKY DIP** If you would like us to select a team at random for you, please tick the Lucky Dip box on the entry form. Postal entries only. **TO ENTER BY PHONE** Call 0640 67 88 99 (+44 870 901 4209 outside the UK) using a touch-tone (DTMF)

THE TIMES MAIN FANTASY LEAGUE ENTRY FORM. Includes fields for: FANTASY TEAM NAME (up to 16 characters), LUCKY DIP, GOALKEEPER NAME, FULL-BACK NAME, CENTRE-BACK NAME, MIDFIELDER NAME, FORWARD NAME, CLUB, VALUE, and a section for payment details (Cheque/PO, Credit card, MasterCard, Visa).

Table of player statistics and values. Columns include: CLUB, PLAYER NAME, VALUE, and POINTS. Categories include GOALKEEPERS, FULL BACKS, CENTRE BACKS, MIDFIELDERS, and FORWARDS. Values range from 0.5 to 4.4.



Advertisement for 'Dion' and 'Fantasy' services. Includes text like 'Dion', 'Fantasy', and 'YOUR FAXBACK 0991 123 721 (ex-UK +44 870 901 4279)'. There are also some small images of people's faces.

Dion on course to top scorers' list

This week's winning team scoops £500 without the leading points scorer of the past seven days. Nick Szczepanik reports

We managed to avoid him last week, after his two-goal debut for Aston Villa, but there is no getting around Dion Dublin this week. A hat-trick at The Dell, giving him a total of five goals in two games, puts him firmly in line for the title of inspired signing of the week, the month, and, by the end of the campaign, quite possibly the season too. No pressure, then.

Those who recall Dublin in his early days under the management of John Beck at Cambridge United, where his head was usually the target for an array of corner kicks, long throw-ins and set pieces, must be mildly bemused to see him in a team leading the FA Carling Premiership.

Alex Ferguson noticed his progress at The Abbey Stadium and took him into the top division for the first time at the beginning of the 1997-98 season. His career at Manchester United stalled after an early broken leg, but he was sold on to Coventry City for £2 million, double the fee Cambridge received.



Creton said, "I hadn't done terribly well up to now." Elsewhere, the team scored steadily. Scholes's brace earned six points, but seven players scored three: significantly, Noel Whelan, pushed forward by Coventry City to fill the gap left by Dublin's departure, scored his team's third goal against Everton on Sunday. It is also worth noting that four of the TC Tornadoses' three-point

WEEKLY WINNER

The TC Tornadoses team:

David Seaman (ARS)	3
Celestine Babayaro (CHE)	3
Stefan Schuster (DER)	0
Sol Campbell (TOT)	3
Luana Barboza (LEI)	0
Paul Scholes (MAN)	6
Noel Whelan (COV)	6
Frank Lampard (WES)	3
Paul Merson (MIO)	3
Dwight Yorke (AST)	7
Clive Mendonca (CHA)	3

Total: 34 points

men, Celestine Babayaro, Sol Campbell, Paul Merson and Clive Mendonca (whose penalty goal for Charlton against Middlesbrough ended a long scoring drought), were brought in together in an assault on the transfer market in early October, for which Mrs Creton gives some credit (but not all) to her eldest son, Andrew. "Some of it was mine and some of it was my son's," she said.

FANTASY PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Another one for the mantelpiece: Dion Dublin walks off at The Dell with the match-ball after his first hat-trick for Aston Villa. It could have been his second but for a linesman's flag a week earlier. At his present scoring rate, he will end the season with 80 goals — plus three for Coventry

FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100

1	These Eat Beans	Nicholas Keighley	145
2	Shabadi United	Phil Clarke	143
3	Robert's Rovers	Robert Anderson	142
4	Just A Second FC	David Walker	140
5	Tigers Army	James Walsh	140
6	Headstart Times	Colin Head	138
7	Dible's Deans FC	Brian Highdale	137
8	In The City	David Mead	137
9	Serious Squad	James Kerr	137
10	Biggles XI	Ben Meaham	136
11	Scorpius	Bob Clubb	136
12	Rough And Smooth	Steve Martin	135
13	Bush Rovers	Simon Thompson	135
14	Leamington	Michael Langdon	135
15	Pretzard City Two	Peter Merrick	134
16	Edmo Utd Mifflon	David Edmondson	134
17	Sue's Stars	Graham Adamson	134
18	Robins Raiders	Robin Playdon	134
19	Bezzie's Boys	Jonathan Bestwick	134
20	Fantasy One	John Saunders	133
21	Solid At The Bac	John Lofthouse	133
22	Broken Arrow	Robert Little	133
23	Cyclones	Ron Allport	132
24	The Mean Team	Adrian Hastings	132
25	Promo Flick	Richard Yershon	132
26	Deans Devils	Brian Dear	132
27	Grampian Gamblers	Martin White	132
28	Lokomotiv No Go	Steve Angeri	132
29	Walton	Malcolm McFarlin	132
30	Loos Rollers	Alan Garden	132
31	Hillbillys Utd 2	Chris Hill	132
32	Colours No Blues	Jessica Jones	132
33	Oak Bush Cricket	Alan Cooke	131
34	Yeah Yeah Yeah Y	David Parry	131
35	Coen Brothers	Sean Eastwood	131
36	Colours No Blues	B Wainman	131
37	Nath's Champs	Nathan Carroll	131
38	Revolution 1	Marian Knappman	131
39	Spartak Moscow	L Samuels	131
40	Utdy De Dunsing	Ian Dunning	130
41	Headstart Gunard	Colin Head	130
42	Football Fancies	Tracy Young	130
43	Waynes Wanderers	Wayne Faulconbridge	130
44	Tc Tornadoses	Teresa Creton	130
45	The Beans FC	Tom Lee	130
46	This Ones Mine	Andrew James Spencer	130
47	Intor City 442	Jas Singh	130
48	Wb 20	Glen Reynolds	130
49	Waltys-Monsters	Matthew Foster	130
50	Clubs	Nica Clark	130
51	Bob's Breezers	Bob Day	130
52	Fusagear	John White	130
53	Tir Town FC	Tony Baker	129
54	Lanternlightam	Alan Lanthornstone	129
55	Bernies Peas	Gillian Rose	129
56	Bunysaboumeers	Rosemary Gunn	129
57	Strikes Force	Laura Cogan	129
58	Wot No Owen FC	Graeme Jones	129
59	Placitas	Rexie Kisher	129
60	Only Girl United	Veronica Jones	129
61	Pin-Ups 7	Phil Tusler	129
62	The Times Eleven	Simon Barker	129
63	Nainok Two	Tony Gammage	129
64	Chapelton Elite	Neil Bradbrook	129
65	Holyamp Yagler	Mike Hawke	129
66	Real Kleckers	Richard Michael Feam	128
67	Reeves United	Sally Reeves	128
68	Dave 110	David Young	128
69	TT's All Stars	Thomas Meakin	128
70	Unbelievable XI	Khalid Shah	128
71	The Fluff Rags	David McCutcheon	128
72	Mismanaged By Faldo	Don Fairley	128
73	Loos Eleven	Keith Davies	128
74	Vit's Magicians	Malcolm Angus	128
75	Diamond Geezers	Stephen Sinclair	128
76	Premier Crusling	Philip Haddon	128
77	Sandy United	Chris Holmes	128
78	Becksfoot1010	Paul Rock	128
79	No Name	W Edward	127
80	Robert Ferrar	Mr E D Haddon	127
81	Safe And Sound 8	Andrew Young	127
82	Sunmy Nomads	Peter Garry	127
83	Globogieria	Dorothy Robinson	127
84	Rocket Science 1	Peter Sherlock	127
85	Sillycones	James Begley	127
86	The New Huddle	Jonathan Stockitt	127
87	Pie FC	Peter Hounsell	127
88	Motor Skill City	Jack Thomdike	127
89	Tilley FC	David Tilley	127
90	Tom's Team	Tom Lee	127
91	Openoutbackhamin	Dennis Waterman	127
92	Do Am You?	Alex Peck-Wilson	127
93	Ants F C	Anthony McFarlin	127
94	Bandidos Darsene	Michael Matejschuk	127
95	Kodoy And Kelle	Anthony McMaster	127
96	Tigger United	Mike Turan	127
97	Basic Concept 2	Patrick Hamson	127
98	Ridgewood Rovers	Martin Lowe	127
99	Olivianewtjohn	Kevin Styles	126
100	Wolf Pack 11	Christopher Cox	126

Plus 14 others on 126 points.

FANTASY QUIZ

Last week's four players were all chosen for their city connections — Dion Dublin, Dwight Yorke, Justin Edinburgh and Sean Dundee.

Here are this week's quartet. What do they have in common? Answer on this page next week.

PRIZES

£250,000 to the manager of the Fantasy League team with the most points at the end of the season. Plus a trip for two to the European Cup final.

£10,000 to the runner-up

£5,000 for third place

£1,000 monthly prizes: eight prizes of £1,000, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment, will be awarded to the managers whose teams score the most points in a particular month

£500 weekly prizes: 36 prizes

of £500, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment, await the managers whose teams score the most points in a particular week.

£1,000 youth prize: there is also a separate manager of the season Youth League prize of £1,000, plus monthly prizes of a Premiership football shirt

£25,000 additional cash prizes will be announced later in the season

FANTASY LEAGUE FAXBACK SERVICE

To receive a comprehensive breakdown of your team's performance use our unique faxback service. The service will be updated by noon every Tuesday.

- Make sure you have your 10-digit PIN to hand when you call.
- Pick up the handset of your fax machine (if you do not have a handset then press the on-hook or telephone button instead) and dial 0991 123 720 (ex-UK +44 870 901 4280).
- Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked.
- If you have any problems using this service call 0171-412 3795.

YOUR FAXBACK SERVICE

0991 123 720 (ex-UK +44 870 901 4280)

Calls cost £1 per minute (ex-UK numbers charged at national rates)

As I was saying...

Making out your Christmas list? Put me down for some Roud gear. I'm sorry, I'm not in the habit of going into that sort of establishment. No, I mean Roud as in Gullit. He has his own designer label. Very big in Newcastle these days, I believe.

Oh yes — they used to sell it in the Chelsea club shop, didn't they? Expensive, though. Tell you what, I might be able to afford some Newcastle socks. They'll be flogging the old black ones off cheap now, I expect.

Why is that? Didn't you notice the Sheffield Wednesday game on Match Of The Day? They've started wearing white socks. Gullit once said that he's always won things with teams that wear white socks, which is part of the reason he agreed to join Chelsea.

And the big wages. And the big wages. But I'll bet that's why Shearer and company are sporting white socks nowadays. Plus all the Georgie kids can ask for them for Christmas. Anyway, I wasn't making out a Christmas present list. I was checking the December fixture list. And what did you find? That there are some very big games coming up, and Villa seem to be playing in all of them. That's right. They play Manchester United, Chelsea and Arsenal in just eight days. The problem is, do I back them to do well in those games, and try to transfer in a couple of their key men, or steer clear, on the basis that they can't win all three? I see the difficulty. Because Dublin and Merson are still listed with their original clubs, you could have three current Villa players in your side, couldn't you? And it increases your chance of winning a weekly prize if they do well in the Chelsea and Arsenal games, which fall in the same week.

Actually, the same is true of Chelsea players, who play at Derby the Saturday after their home game with Villa. That was the one postponed because of rain the other week, if you remember. So what is your gut feeling? Well, the extra game certainly increases the opportunity to score points — but these important games between rivals are often tight affairs with few goals. So a Villa defender, like Ehiogwu, might be worth transferring in. What about some forwards? Dublin is hot at the moment, but Dwight Yorke will be keen to score against his old club at Villa Park on December 5.

Yes, but you can't have Yorke in the same team as Ehiogwu, because Yorke counts as a Villa player and you can't have two in the same team. But you ought to think about Dublin. He took penalties for Coventry, too. Might be do the same for Villa? Good point. But a goalscorer Chelsea midfielder like Poyet could be a better signing. Decisions, decisions. Almost as difficult as that Christmas list. No, that's easy. You're definitely getting the socks.



CHECK YOUR SCORES

TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02

YOUTH LEAGUE LEADERBOARD

The top ten of the under-18s:

1	Robert's Rovers	Robert Anderson	142
2	The Mean Team	Adam Harding	132
3	Hillbillys Utd 3	Chris Hill	132
4	The Fluff Rags	David McCutcheon	128
5	Motor Skill City	Jack Thomdike	127
6	Westwood's Team	Jonathan Westwood	128
7	Darren's Dazzlers	Darren Vial	124
8	Sarracell Bouzets	Jonathan Sarracell	123
9	Domination Yes	John Eisor	123
10	Andy's Premier 11	Andrew Hare	123



Shay Given: the Robert's Rovers goalkeeper (Youth League)

Hints on selecting your midfield of dreams

OPINIONS differ among The Times Fantasy League managers regarding the importance of the midfield. The majority of managers pick a couple of stars in the centre of the park, but are forced to choose two less well-known names to make up the numbers due to the budget. Although the lesser-known players may perform in the short term, the cream of Fantasy League midfielders does always appear to rise to the top.

It is now that we see possibly the two biggest names head the midfield standings. David Beckham's crossing ability and talent in dead-ball situations will always ensure that the United man is good for fifty points in an injury-free season. Matt Le Tissier also has a phenomenal record in Fantasy League, peaking with 95 points in 1993-94. He is central to all Southampton's attacks, and it is unusual for a Saints goal not to involve the Channel Islander.

With midfielders, it is obviously an advantage when they play slightly further forward. For example, there has been increased demand for entering the Whelan Wonderland. With Dion Dublin off to pastures new, Noel Whelan has been pushed into a striking role and has not let his backers down.

Gustavo Poyet is widely considered to be the best header of the ball in the Premiership and it is in this department that he generates most of his points. In his first season on these shores, Poyet surged to 20 points in just eight games before he was ruled out for the majority of the season with a serious injury, and has started this campaign in a similar fashion. Paul Scholes always looks to get forward from his midfield role to link with the main striking duo, and Aston Villa's new boy Paul Merson is a player of a somewhat similar ilk.

Assists often go unnoticed, but this is where the likes of Darren Anderton and David Ginola accumulate a vast majority of their points. Ginola is always capable of a defence-splitting pass or pinpoint cross. Incidentally, Anderton holds the all-time Fantasy League assists record — 19 in 1994-95.

On the other end of the scale, it is just a case of hoping that your cheaper midfielders simply chip in here and there. Although Garry Pflitrock has started this season impressively with two goals and three assists, the 4,000 managers who have recently purchased him should be aware of his form in the previous two seasons — played 42, zero points!

West Ham's inspirational midfielder Frank Lampard is destined for a future with the England set-up and although he will not break the bank, 25 points is certainly on the cards for such a talented young man.

MATT SIMS

MIDFIELD BOYS

Last month's most popular midfield buys (based on 1000 managers in)

G Fitzpatrick (BLA)	4,293
P Shearer (MID)	2,376
D Beckham (MAN)	1,309
P Berger (LIV)	1,043
G Poyet (CHE)	812
S Stokes (NOT)	738
N Whelan (COV)	710
D Ginola (TOT)	675
A Nielsen (TOT)	514
F Lampard (WES)	446

TRANSFER LINE

Want to make one of your 12 transfers?

Call **0640 62 51 03** (ex-UK +44 870 901 4293)

0640 calls cost 60p per minute. Ex-UK calls charged at national rates.

NEWS

'Don't expel drug takers'

Children who experiment with drugs should not be expelled from school automatically, teachers will be told in the new Government guidelines.

Stability is sexy, says Blair

Financiers were told by Tony Blair that stability was a "sexy thing" to hammer home the message that the Government had created the conditions to help business weather a difficult year ahead.

Breeches dropped

The Lord Chancellor urged to wear black trousers and drop his ceremonial dress of breeches, tights and buckled shoes.

Animal tests ban

British cosmetic companies will have to move their animal tests abroad in response to a ban announced by the Government.

Top earner

The drugs czar, Keith Hellawell, tops the pay league for Tony Blair's 70-strong team of political aides and special advisers.

Brain damage award

A teenage girl who suffered severe brain damage after surgery to remove a birthmark when she was five was awarded £3.9 million.

Aid for farmers

Emergency aid of 120 million was announced by the Government to help Britain's farmers come through the worst crisis in agriculture since the 1930s.

Tyneside opera

Gateshead is to add a touch of Sydney to Tyneside with a £60 million riverside music centre that recalls the shape of the Opera House.

Neighbourhood row

A vital question of lifestyle has created a neighbourhood dispute between the super-rich and the merely wealthy.

Single parent skills

Single parents are just as capable as bringing up children successfully as traditional families.

Botched operations

Ministers were urged to order a public inquiry into the career of a surgeon who may have maimed 180 patients.

Hurricane case

The families of West Indian crew members who drowned when the tall ship Fantome sank during hurricane Mitch off the coast of Honduras last month are to sue the vessel's owners.

Work permit loophole

Manchester United, Britain's wealthiest football club, finalised a move to exploit a loophole in European employment law to help it bring in stars from South America and Africa.

End of terror

Monika Haas was jailed for five years for her part in an aircraft hijacking - a sentencing that marked Germany's final reckoning with its terrorist past.

Taj Mahal may be closed for ever

The Taj Mahal, battered by people, sandstorms and pollution, may be permanently closed. It is suffering the ravages of 10 million pairs of feet trudging across its marble floors every year.



Four hundred soldiers began leaving Northern Ireland yesterday bringing troop levels there to the lowest since 1970

BUSINESS

Nerves of steel: British Steel gave warning it was likely to plunge into the red this year and said that it expected to make thousands of employees redundant over the next two years.

SPORT

Football: Ian Wright, who is enjoying a new lease of life at 35, and Dion Dublin, a "youngster" of 29, are expected to start in attack for England against the Czech Republic.

ARTS

Home fronts: After tomorrow's royal opening, the Giffrye Museum in East London will have a dazzling new space in which to chronicle our domestic lives.

FEATURES

Old and new: Placing a children's nursery in an old people's home is raising spirits and may be prolonging life.

Formula for trouble: Bernie Ecclestone, the entrepreneur behind Formula One, is heading for a battle with the EC over legal moves aimed at helping his companies to raise \$2 billion.

Cricket: England gained an exciting one-wicket win over Queensland but the gloss was taken off it by an assault on John Crawley by a street drunk.

Rebel cause: Manchester celebrated the 72-year-old composer Hans Werner Henze with a five-day festival tracing his journey from revolutionary to sophisticated.

Market force: George Soros was a big loser in 1987 and huge winner in 1992. But he is also a pinstriped Robin Hood.

Big in Japan: The Japanese Government unveiled a £119 billion fiscal stimulus package in an attempt to revive its economy.

Racing: Tony McCoy, the champion National Hunt jockey, was suspended for 14 days, with another four deferred for six months, for excessive use of the whip.

Too, too cute: The "new wave" of young British artists goes on show at the ICA, but Richard Cork finds them mostly looking backwards and lacking inchutzpah.

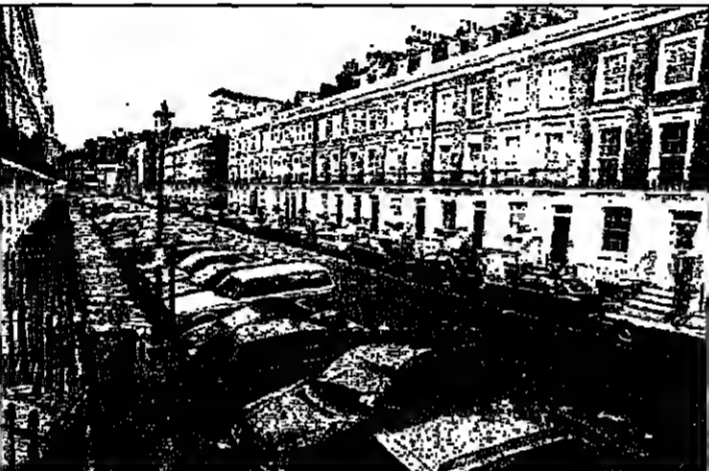
Rock solid: Gibraltar is making a determined push for full self-government and striving to become a lucrative business hub.

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 47.3 to 5510.5. The pound rose 97 cents to £1.6755 and fell 2.16 pence to DM2.7924, the index falling to 100.8 from 101.3.

Rugby union: Wales, their pulses still racing after the dramatic encounter with South Africa, predictably chose an unchanged XV for the Argentine game.

Dramatic interludes: Catherine Johnson's glam rock nostalgia play, Shang-a-Lang, fun on a double-decker bus in Surface Noise; plus other London theatre reviews.

Changing attitudes: "There has been a dramatic change in attitudes. People are not now so cynical; they do find inequality unacceptable."



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

INTERFACE Computers and the British: a new survey shows how they use them

HOMES What is your house worth? How homes in a London street have risen in value

FOCUS

Rock solid: Gibraltar is making a determined push for full self-government and striving to become a lucrative business hub.

LAW

Changing attitudes: "There has been a dramatic change in attitudes. People are not now so cynical; they do find inequality unacceptable."

THE PAPERS

By our count this is the eighth "confrontation" between Saddam Hussein's regime and the United States (with Britain and a few other Western powers in tow) since the Iraqi dictator's forces were expelled from Kuwait in 1991.

RADIO & TV

Preview: Men who share the Prince of Wales's birthday reflect on life at 50. Cutting Edge (Channel 4, 9pm). Review: Joe Joseph on the burgeoning sex research industry.

OPINION

Farm prices Spending more money on agriculture cannot buck global markets, nor can it substitute for the reform of the common agricultural policy which Europe so desperately needs.

Open health

While medical consultants are allowed to hide key data behind the veil of professional secrecy, both public confidence and health will be at risk.

The tender Taj

Restricting entry to the Taj may risk a loss of tourist money, but to continue to allow unrestricted entry will kill the goose which lays the golden egg.

COLUMNS

LIBBY PURVES Any family which takes self-catering holidays without TV or computers in British weather knows perfectly well that children will happily play board-games with their parents for hours, or be read to, or have long, daff conversations.

PETER STOTHARD

There are two new Great Indian Hornbills in Regents Park. They are young; their keepers say they are bonding well; and perhaps they will be more successful than Josephine in the breeding business.

MICHAEL GOVE

There would be an appropriateness in terminating Saddam's career by assassination; he has built his career by the bullet, and has been known to settle cabinet disputes with a revolver shot.

OBITUARIES

Edwige Fautrier, French actress; Stokely Carmichael, American black activist; Laurence Gardar, South African editor.

LETTERS

Lords and closed lists; Bishops expenses; flooding in Venice; Iraq's pain; grammar schools; hunting ban; theatre revenues; rewarding rabbits.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,951

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-29 and some pre-filled letters.

- ACROSS 1 Ironclad American achieves re-nouveau (4). 3 Is it easy to lie through them? (5,5). 9 Heart of Holy Land? (4). 10 Seal ordered by officer in charge of extending sections (10). 12 Redirected ICBM to USA - nuclear, perhaps (9). 13 Name a girl got for being nose? (5). 14 Official fabric in a layer (8,4). 18 Short term in May or June, say, but not July or August (12). 21 Angry with a couple of males (3,2). 22 One-time decay of investment company (4,5). 24 Fake confronted about ecstasy is chastened (10).

DEAD TO THE WORLD crossword puzzle with a grid and clues.

Times Two Crossword, page 56

AA INFORMATION

AA information including latest road and weather conditions, weather by fax, and car reports by fax.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing hours of darkness for various locations like London, Edinburgh, Manchester, and Penzance.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 48% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997.

Swissair advertisement with a logo and text: 'There's a problem with every solution. How to catch our 6.30 a.m. flight from Heathrow?'.

FORECAST

General: mostly cold, dry, fine and frosty. Northern Ireland, Wales and the West Country will have rain, sleet and snow edging eastwards.

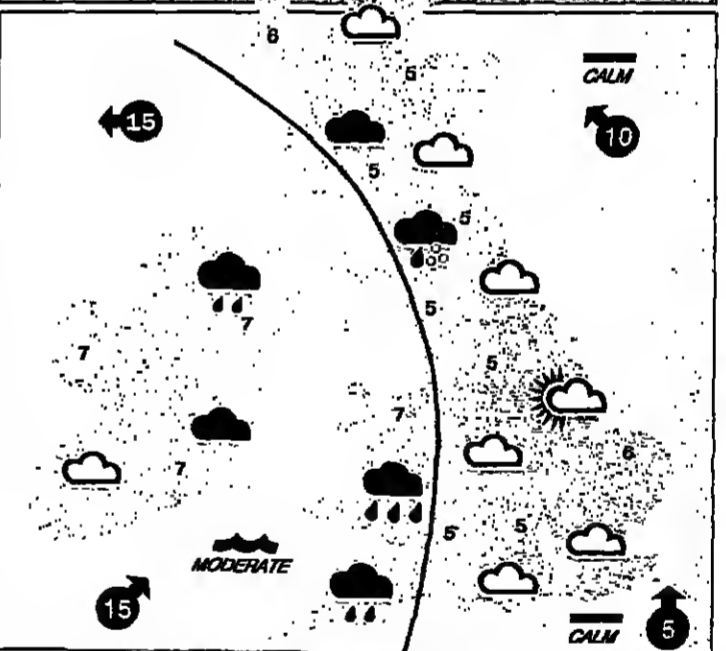
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions and temperatures for various locations in Britain yesterday.

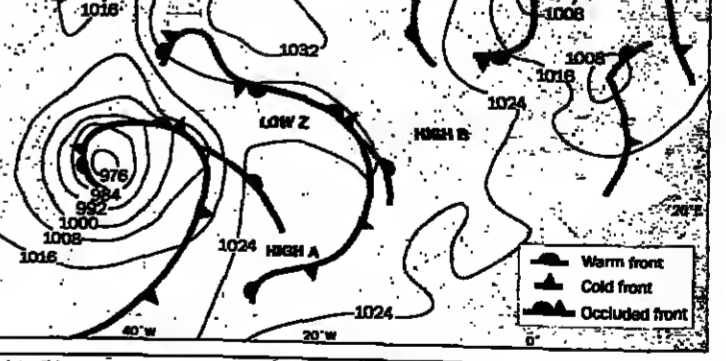
ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions and temperatures for various international locations.

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: High A and High B will build in situ. Low Z will slowly deepen and run SE.



HIGH TIDES

Table showing high tide times for various locations in the UK and Ireland.

RNLI RESCUE UPDATE - 17 NOVEMBER 1998

RNLI rescue update statistics: Total number of lives saved so far this year: 823. Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: 4,632. Cost to RNLI per day: £197,000. Cost to taxpayer: \$0. To make a donation, telephone: 0800 543210.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring a woman's face and text: 'British S... Ecclesto... aims... thwart... by buyi... Fl righ... You've never had...'.

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



ECONOMY
Rosemary Righter says Emu could be stranded by red tide
PAGE 33



ARTS
Whatever became of the Bay City Rollerettes?
PAGES 38-40



LAW
What next for Kamlesh Bahl of the EOC?
PAGES 41-47

ENGLAND FEEL BETTER FOR NARROW WIN
Sport
Pages 49-56

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17 1998

British Steel cuts more jobs as market worsens



Mofatt gloomy outlook

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH STEEL is to make thousands of workers redundant as it accelerates a massive job cuts programme. The beleaguered company could also close all its plants over Christmas because of falling orders. Some of the job losses, which are expected to total more than 12,000 by the turn of the century, could be compulsory. In the next six months it will cut 1,600, after making 1,400 people redundant in the past six months. The cuts will affect middle management as well as blue-collar workers. British Steel is battling against plunging prices and the strength of

the pound. It has given warning that it could fall into the red this year if action is not taken against what it sees as steel dumping in Europe. The company is backing an appeal by Eurofer, the European steel trade association, to the European Commission about alleged anti-competitive behaviour by steel producers from the Far East, Brazil and South Africa. Prices have fallen by 10-15 per cent over the past few weeks as cheap steel hits Western markets. Sir Brian Mofatt, chairman and chief executive, described the fall in prices as the worst he had seen in his career. Sir Brian said that manufacturing was firmly in recession and dismissed Government claims that the

economy was experiencing a temporary blip. He said: "The UK is in recession... in most of manufacturing industry it has been in recession for most of this year." He described the Chancellor's predictions on gross domestic product as over optimistic and said he expected economic conditions to worsen. Sir Brian said British Steel's problems were nothing to do with productivity — a charge made against ailing firms by the Government. He said the company ranked alongside the world's best. City analysts largely agree and say the management of the company is not at fault. Ken Jackson, General Secretary of the AEEU, said the job cuts highlight

ed the fragile state of the economy. He said: "The recent 0.5 per cent rate cut was welcome, but the problems at British Steel demonstrate the case for further cuts." British Steel could halt production at all of its plants for several weeks over Christmas if it does not get enough orders. It will join some car-makers in suspending production because there is not enough work. Sir Brian said a decision would be made within a month but a closure is thought more likely than not. While not unprecedented, plant closure at the company is rare. British Steel has put the screws on its suppliers, demanding price cuts of up to 20 per cent. In some of its opera-

tions about half of the suppliers have ceased business with British Steel, squeezed by the falling prices. Sir Brian said that he expected further difficulties at Avesta Sheffield, the Anglo-Swedish stainless steel operation in which British Steel has a 51 per cent stake. Recently the business delivered an interim £35 million loss. That could escalate to £100 million in the full-year. Half-year pre-tax profits at British Steel fell to £108 million from £143 million in the same period last year. Earnings per share fell to 3.99p from 4.75p. The interim dividend was maintained at 3p.

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	5510.5 (+47.3)
FTSE All Share	2834.4 (+18.0)
Nikkei	14429.27 (+160.08)
Dow Jones	8988.85 (+89.26)
S&P Composite	1123.71 (+3.05)
US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.75% (5.75%)
Long bond	99.25% (99.25%)
Yield	5.250% (5.250%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	6.75% (6.75%)
Life long gilt	115.15 (115.14)
STERLING	
New York	1.5780 (1.5822)
London	1.6755 (1.6858)
DM	2.7924 (2.8138)
FF	3.3682 (3.4382)
SFR	2.5990 (2.3179)
Yen	203.70 (203.68)
C Index	100.8 (101.3)
EURO	
London	1.6888 (1.6845)
DM	5.8885 (5.8450)
FF	1.3716 (1.3670)
SFR	119.53 (122.78)
Yen	203.70 (203.68)
Tokyo close	Yen 122.14
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Feb)	\$12.50 (\$12.65)
Oil	22.50 (22.50)
London close	\$294.65 (\$296.70)

Ecclestone aims to thwart EU by buying F1 rights

By JASON NISSÉ

BERNIE ECCLESTONE, the entrepreneur behind Formula One motor racing, has been given the exclusive rights to exploit almost all the commercial aspects of the sport in a move aimed at avoiding sanctions expected to be brought by the European Commission. The arrangement, revealed in the pathfinder prospectus for a \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) bond issue planned by Mr Ecclestone's Formula One Group, makes the media rights to the sport the "property" of Formula One.

This is set out in an "Acknowledgement Agreement" that will be provided by the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the sport's ruling body, before the final prospectus is issued.

This agreement means the FIA has handed over to Formula One all the intellectual property rights for one of the most lucrative sports in the world. The deal allows for the FIA to buy back its rights for an agreed sum in the year 2020.

The draft prospectus, given to more than 200 potential investors who attended a presentation in London yesterday, goes on to argue that this new arrangement means that the business dealings between Formula One and the FIA are safe from being altered by Brussels.

Karel Van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, launched an investigation in the middle of last year into the contracts that link Formula One, the FIA, the teams that race in the sport and the media companies that televise it. The investigation was enough to persuade Mr Ecclestone to postpone a planned \$1.5 billion flotation of Formula One and has cast a pall over the \$2 billion euro-bond that it was forced to announce two months ago. Ac-

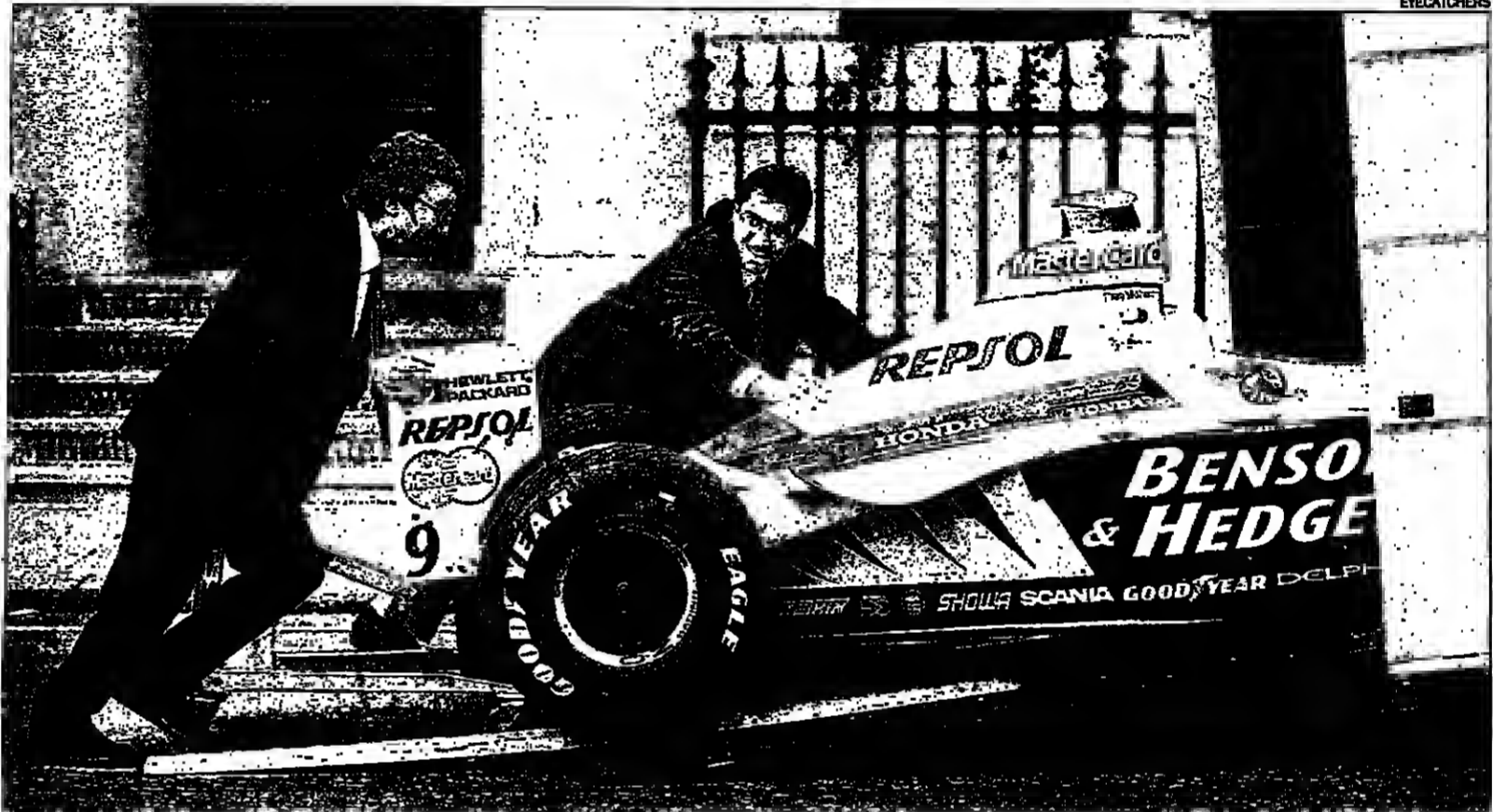
ording to a BBC *Panorama* programme, shown last night, Mr Van Miert's office is understood to have been angered by comments made by Mr Ecclestone and his advisers indicating that there would be no sanctions brought against Formula One as a result of the investigation. It is believed that Mr Van Miert's office is preparing an intervention notice against Formula One and the FIA that could make them amend their business arrangements. But all his office would say yesterday was that it will make a ruling next year.

The prospectus refers to Article 222 of the Treaty of Rome: "The treaty shall in no way prejudice the rules in member states governing the system of property ownership." It is understood that Mr Ecclestone is relying on this to stop Mr Van Miert from interfering with the commercial exploitation of Formula One's "property" — ie, the media rights to the sport. Article 222 is referred to in a report by Duff & Phelps, the credit rating agency, which said this means that the "fundamental rights" of Formula One "are not considered to be substantially at risk".

However, Mr Van Miert's office yesterday said Article 222 was irrelevant to the EC's powers to intervene if it found that Formula One was acting in an anti-competitive way.

The prospectus shows how important Formula One's control of the media rights are. The company has media contracts worth \$341 million this year, \$407 million next year and \$424 million in 2000. Although it has to give 47 per cent of this revenue to the racing teams, the company made a pre-tax profit of £81.1 million in the first eight months of this year.

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The deal between Eddie Jordan, left, and Warburg, Pincus, whose managing director Dominic Shorthouse, is pictured right, values Mr Jordan's stake at \$90m

By JASON NISSÉ

EDDIE JORDAN, the Irish motor racing entrepreneur, yesterday saw his stake in the Jordan Formula One team valued at \$90 million (£54 million) after a deal with Warburg, Pincus, the venture capital firm.

Warburg is investing \$60 million and will take a 40 per cent stake in Jordan, which

Jordan has right formula to advance his business

boasts Damon Hill, the former world champion, as its lead driver, leaving its founder with the remainder. Dominic Shorthouse, War-

burg's managing director, will join the Jordan board but Eddie Jordan will run the team. The move comes at a time when many of the owners of

Formula One teams and racing circuits are paying more attention to the potential value of their assets. Yesterday the British Racing Drivers'

Club (BRDC) confirmed it had received an approach to buy the Silverstone circuit.

John Lewis, a member of the club, has joined with HSBC Private Equity to make a £41 million offer. This would bring a windfall of £50,000 each for the BRDC's 800 members. However, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, its financial adviser, believes the circuit could be worth £70 million.

Carphone Warehouse offers retailing on Net

By CHRIS AYRES

THE Carphone Warehouse will on Thursday become the latest big high street name to launch an Internet retail service, which it believes could generate more than £1 million worth of sales within the next 12 months.

The private company, which is the UK's largest independent retailer of mobile phones, has spent £500,000 designing and building the site. Advertising for the service will be funded out of the company's £10 million marketing budget.

The Carphone Warehouse is also in discussions with British Interactive Broadcasting (BIB), the company which plans to launch a home shopping service via digital television next year. BIB's shareholders include British Telecom, Midland Bank, Matsushita and BSkyB, the satellite

broadcaster 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*.

Part of The Carphone Warehouse's Internet site asks potential customers to answer detailed questions about how often they would use a phone, at

what time of day, and how much they would be prepared to spend per month. The site then advises them as to which package best suits their needs.

The launch of the site follows similar Internet retail ventures by Tesco, the supermarket group, HMV, the music retailer, and the food-to-clothes giant Marks & Spencer. Dixon's, the electronics retailer, also offers customers an Internet service.

Charles Dunstone, the managing director and founder of The Carphone Warehouse, yesterday said that in trials over the weekend more than 1,500 potential customers had registered with the company's Internet site.

He said: "I hope that if you know nothing about mobile phones, the site will help you to a purchase."



Dunstone: 1,500 registrations

Gubbay out of £10m Tring deal

By CHRIS AYRES

RAYMOND GUBBAY, the impresario, yesterday staged a dramatic disappearing act from the £10 million deal to turn Tring International, a deeply troubled music and video group, into a music promotion company.

One source close to the deal — which also involved Harvey Goldsmith, the rock music promoter — refused to give details on why the deal broke down. But he said: "It would look trivial in the written word."

Tring will now continue to work on a reverse takeover deal with Mr Goldsmith.

It is thought that Mr Gubbay had become frustrated with the amount of time it was taking to complete the deal, which included the issue of new shares, and the involvement of the investor Paul Levinson. Mr Levinson, a significant shareholder in both Tring and

Mr Goldsmith's private company, played a key role in the deal in spite of living abroad.

It is almost five months since the idea for the original deal was first mooted, and insiders said there were disagreements about the group's future strategy, and how to match the interests of three strong-minded personalities.

However, sources close to Tring last night stressed that there had been no personal conflict between Mr Gubbay, an urbane classic music enthusiast, and Mr Goldsmith, who has a reputation for enjoying a heady rock 'n' roll lifestyle. No one involved in the deal agreed to comment.

Yesterday Tring issued a statement to the Stock Exchange, saying that "a number of key aspects of the transaction could not be agreed". Shares in Tring are suspended at 64p.

Japanese tonic fails to excite markets

By ROBERT WHYMAN AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE Japanese Government yesterday unveiled a huge ¥24 trillion (£19 billion) fiscal stimulus package in a last-ditch attempt to revive the country's moribund economy.

The bigger than expected package was, however, greeted apathetically in the markets, and economists predicting that it would, at best, simply prevent further deterioration in Japan's economy.

The latest stimulus measures — the biggest package of its kind — seeks to raise Japan's gross domestic product by 2.3 per cent in real terms over the next three years. Taiichi Sakaiya, Economic Planning Agency Minister, predicted that it would restore the economy to growth after two years of recession.

Analysts, however, doubted this and expressed disappointment that the Government had chosen again to concentrate on boosting public spending, rather than tax cuts.

The spending portion of the package includes ¥81 trillion for social infrastructure and public works, and ¥59 trillion to be provided for cheap loans to companies to try to ease Japan's credit crunch. A further ¥6 trillion will be provided to cut top-rate income tax and corporation tax. However, there is no cut in sales tax, contrary to market hopes.

Tokyo's Nikkei index made modest gains to end up 160.06, at 14,428.27. The yen was little changed against the dollar.

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Bank sees no need for hedge fund regulation

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

TIGHTER regulation of hedge funds is likely to prove self-defeating and cannot be justified in terms of investor protection, a Bank of England report claims today.

The Bank's autumn Financial Stability Review, however, calls on banks with hedge fund investments to consider their own risk procedures.

It gives warning that there may be a growing tension between the expectation that banks have low-risk liabilities and the reality of a growing tendency to diversify into more risky investments.

Regulators in both Britain and the US have been under increasing pressure to review the regulation of hedge funds — high-risk investment funds — following the \$3.6 billion (£1.1 billion) bailout of Long Term Capital Management.

The Financial Stability Review, which is published today, also argues against any direct tightening of regulation for hedge funds.

The review claims that the basic purpose of regulation "is to protect investors from excessive risk taking and loss".

This principle, however, does not apply to hedge funds that attract investors precisely because they have taken a high-risk strategy outside the regulated sector.

The experience of the LTCM rescue package has also raised the question as to whether the markets themselves need protecting from hedge funds. The review, however, claims that the hedge funds are not the only large players in the market and "it is not clear why they, uniquely among investors, should be singled out".

Increased regulation is also likely to prove self-defeating because it would drive many funds even further offshore, the Bank says.

The review does, however, conclude that banks should consider their monitoring of hedge fund investments and, in particular, check the adequacy of risk management procedures and levels of collateral provided to cover investments.

It recognises that the growing pressure on financial services companies to diversify into more risky assets could create regulatory problems in the future because large banks are traditionally perceived as having low-risk liabilities.



Edgar Bronfman Jr, left, and Frank Biondi Jr, pictured at the time of Seagram's purchase of Universal Studios

Tobacco shares lifted as Clinton backs settlement

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

BILL CLINTON yesterday threw his weight behind the \$206 billion (£125 billion) tobacco settlement, pushing BAT shares up 14 1/2p to 530p yesterday, close to an all-time high. President Clinton urged Congress to approve the deal, which will space out payments to the Government over 25 years.

A previous, more comprehensive \$368.5 billion settlement, had been rejected by Congress last year.

Staking the White House's claim to part of the credit for the deal, a spokesman said: "The state settlement is an im-

portant step forward in the fight to reduce teen smoking. The President will ask Congress to help him finish the job."

Mr Clinton, who has been campaigning for tobacco legislation, was not directly involved in negotiating the settlement that was hammered out by eight attorneys-general.

While welcoming the settlement, the White House said Mr Clinton would continue to push for national tobacco legislation.

The spokesman said: "He will highlight much of the unfinished work. Next year he

will make a legislative priority of finishing the job with Congress."

The President is also expected to ask the Supreme Court to decide whether the federal Food and Drug Administration has the authority to regulate tobacco.

The settlement has delighted Wall Street. America's big tobacco companies have been the toast of investors in the past few days. Philip Morris set a record high yesterday.

Analysts believe that the biggest legal threat over the health risks from smoking has now been eliminated.

Head of Universal forced out

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

FRANK BIONDI Jr, the head of Universal Studios yesterday resigned under pressure as Seagram, the studio's parent company, launched its long-awaited restructuring.

Edgar Bronfman Jr, the chief executive of Seagram, will take a more hands-on role in the running of the Hollywood crown jewel that has suffered since he acquired it in a 1995 move to turn Seagram from a drinks business into an entertainment giant.

Universal has been struggling at the box office. Its new release, the Brad Pitt film, *Meet Joe Black*, is the latest in a string of cinematic disappointments.

The restructuring is aimed at integrating PolyGram, acquired from Philips for \$10.4 billion (£6.2 billion), with Universal to form the world's biggest music company.

Mr Bronfman is reorganising Seagram into three areas that will report directly to him: beverages; music and film; theme parks and international television.

Mr Biondi, 53, had more than two years left to run on a five-year contract thought to be worth \$76 million.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Subsidy cut slows down GB Railways

GB RAILWAYS GROUP, which operates the Anglia Railways franchise, lifted underlying profits in the first half in spite of a deterioration in passenger service levels. The company reported pre-tax profits of £1 million for the six months to September 30, even though it saw subsidies from Opraf, the Rail Regulator, cut by £4 million during the period. In the first half of the previous year, pre-tax profits were £2.1 million. Punctuality figures published earlier this month show that Anglia's performance had fallen from 93.4 per cent over 91.7 per cent over the same period.

There was a 12.5 per cent increase in passenger volume on Anglia trains, which run between Liverpool Street and East Anglia. Tim Clark, managing director of Anglia Railways, said last year's punctuality figures were "exceptionally good" and therefore not a fair comparison. GB Railways also holds a small stake in Great Southern Railway, which operates long distance trains in Australia. Earnings fell to 7.7p a share from 15.5p, but there is a maiden interim dividend of 1.5p a share.

Phytopharm placing

PHYTOPHARM, the company that is seeking to develop medicines from plants, has raised £2.2 million through a placing of shares with institutional investors — enough to fund the company's operations for another two years. The shares were priced at 145p, a modest discount to the market price of 150p, although still below the 175p they commanded at flotation in April 1996. In spite of the recent problems in the biotechnology sector, Phytopharm has tripled in value this year, helped by a collaboration with Pfizer to develop a drug to counteract obesity.

Dagenham buoyed

SHARES of Dagenham Motors rose 18 1/2p yesterday, buoyed by hopes of a takeover bid for the motor dealer by a joint venture between Ford and Jardine International Motor Holdings. Ford and Jardine said that they were considering ways of expanding their joint venture, including the acquisition of Dagenham, the UK's biggest Ford dealer. The venture already has 11 Ford dealerships and four Iveco Ford commercial vehicle dealerships. At yesterday's closing price Dagenham is valued at about £25 million.

Cisco plans academy

JOHN CHAMBERS, chief executive of Cisco Systems, the US technology group, will tomorrow pledge to spend £1 million teaching British students how to design and build the equipment that makes the Internet work. The company plans to launch a Cisco Networking Academy programme, which will provide secondary schools and colleges with the hardware needed to teach computer networking skills, plus curriculum development training for teachers. Cisco said that it ultimately aimed to establish five regional training centres.

Abbot windfarm deal

ABBOT GROUP, a drilling contractor for the oil and gas industry, said yesterday that it had agreed to a joint venture for operating windfarms with PowerGen Renewables, a subsidiary of PowerGen. Abbot said that it would acquire 50 per cent of the issued share capital of PowerGen Renewables from PowerGen for £5.35 million. Abbot will transfer its Norfolk windfarm to the joint venture. PowerGen Renewables, as the joint venture will be known, currently operates seven windfarms across the United Kingdom.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank
Sells	Sells	Sells
Australia \$	2.71	2.54
Austria Sch	20.66	18.00
Belgium Fr	60.90	55.94
Canada \$	2.19	2.53
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8696	0.7981
Denmark Kr	11.21	10.32
Egypt	5.92	5.30
Finland Mk	9.04	8.29
France Fr	9.84	9.06
Germany DM	2.556	2.716
Greece Dr	493	457
Hong Kong \$	13.81	12.81
Iceland	1.29	1.03
Indonesia	16484	11484
Italy Lit	1.1763	1.0673
Japan Yen	7.90	6.64
Malaysia	2940	2703
Netherlands Gld	215.62	198.69
New Zealand \$	3.242	3.047
Norway Kr	0.564	0.505
Portugal Esc	209.02	276.99
S Africa Rd	10.15	9.19
Spain Ptas	249.08	230.29
Sweden Kr	14.22	13.22
Switzerland Fr	2.452	2.234
Taiwan Ntd	508.21	474.54
USA \$	1.783	1.640

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different prices apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Proposals to assist credit unions

THE credit union movement received a boost from proposals announced yesterday by Patricia Hewitt, Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Henrietta Lake writes).

Speaking at the conclusion of a Joseph Rowntree Foundation study into community finance, Ms Hewitt announced the publication of a consulta-

tion document to reform existing legislation constraining the growth of credit unions.

Set up to provide financial services for disadvantaged communities, there are more than 600 credit unions with assets exceeding £100 million.

The measures will make the "common bond" qualifying rules for members more flexi-

ble, extend the two- to five-year repayment periods for loans, allow unions to borrow from sources other than banks and permit them to offer interest bearing share accounts.

Ms Hewitt also announced proposals for the future regulation of credit unions, bringing them within the scope of the Financial Services Authority.

Peter Gormley, a director of the National Federation of Credit Unions, said: "We welcome any proposals which make credit unions more flexible. Changes to the highly restrictive Credit Unions Act of 1979 are long overdue." Consultation ends on February 12.

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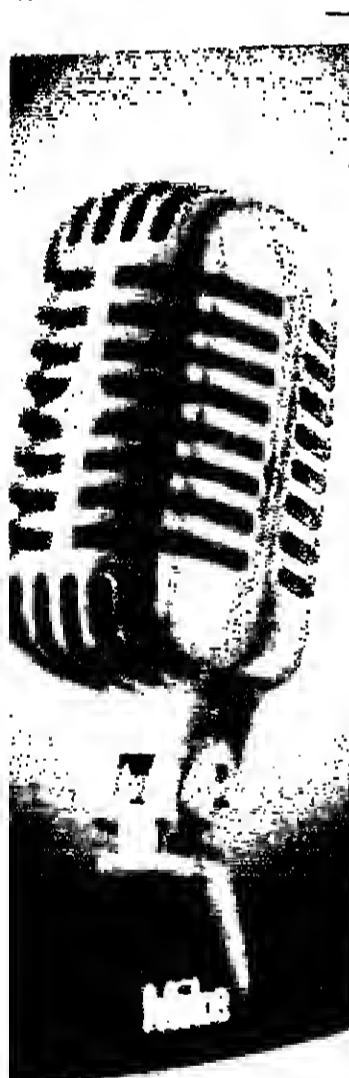
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plans academy

windfarm deal



ers know that

A woolly future for steel



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

MAKING steel is much like farming sheep at present. A lot of work goes into it but the prices fetched by both Dolly and hot rolled coil are pathetic and getting worse. Unlike sheep farmers, however, British Steel can expect little assistance from the Government during the crisis that is engulfing it. Bailing out ailing industries is not a role that New Labour sees for itself.

So British Steel must fight its own corner unaided. The problem is that it is doing just that and has been for some time. The company is among the world's best for productivity and its management is generally well thought of. But the problems this management faces would try the patience of a saint.

British Steel is highly vulnerable to the strength of the pound and has taken a severe battering over the past 18 months. That may be easing now that action has been taken on interest rates but it will be a while before the benefits flow into the company's order books.

But another — and potentially more damaging — foe will not be quiescent so easily. Steel prices are quite literally plunging around the world, felled by the Asian economic fit. That has sent Far Eastern companies rushing to flood western markets with steel and has brought down the shutters on their own countries' market for the commodity.

British Steel is looking to its European trade association to combat alleged steel dumping across Europe. It may have some effect in driving out anti-competitive behaviour — if such can be proven — but the machinery of Europe is notoriously slow and British Steel's problems are pressing.

If there is soon a downturn in the European car industry then the company's problems are going to look far worse. Instead of the Christmas closures and thousands of job losses it now faces, British Steel may have to look seriously at reducing capacity. Such a move would be a big blow to Britain's diminishing manufacturing base. It would be a result of recession that is difficult to reverse in better times.

For manufacturing is facing nothing less than recession despite the Chancellor's over-optimistic economic forecasts and the Trade and Industry Secretary's warnings about talking "ourselves into recession". There may be little hope that British Steel can make it into the next century without a massive reduction in its workforce and a squeeze on its suppliers so great that hundreds of them will fall by the wayside. It may ultimately

have to bite the bullet and close plants. By then the manufacturing base may have declined to about 15 per cent of the economy.

It will take many knowledgeable-based industries to fill this gap and even more to fill it for the long term. Government ministers may look dewy eyed at high-tech clusters but those companies cut and run more quickly than heavy industry. Ask the people who used to work at Fujitsu.

Turbo-charged Ecclestone

Bernie Ecclestone has enjoyed a long and successful business career. Having started as a garage owner, he became business manager for Jochen Rindt when the driver won the Formula One world championship in the late 1960s. He then moved into team management and eventually became the effective boss of one of the world's most

watched, and most lucrative, sports. Now he wants to crown his achievements by taking nearly \$2 billion out of the sport and putting it into a trust to ensure the continuing wealth and happiness of his wife and children.

But his timing is askew. Last year when he was talking about floating his Formula One Group, he stumbled over the rather large hurdle of an investigation into the sport's business dealings by Karel Van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner. This investigation is ongoing, yet Ecclestone is proceeding with a giant eurobond.

Not surprisingly, yesterday's investor presentation for the bond was dominated by talk of the EC investigation. Attempts by Formula One and its adviser, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, to defuse the situation by first saying that Van Miert's concerns could be easily dealt with (a statement Van Miert's office denied) and then by a legal manoeuvre (which Van Miert's office said was irrelevant) show how concerned they are about this inquiry.

So why not wait until the EC has ruled? Is there some pressing reason why the 67-year-old Ecclestone needs to fill up his family's coffers now, rather than in a few months' time? Most of the contracts that the EC is investigating stretch well into the next century (the most important one potentially stretches until 2020). The row with the EC over tobacco sponsorship is not going to be sorted out in the near future. And the plans to develop more races in the Far East are not going to come to much while the key markets are still in the economic doldrums. So why proceed with the haste of Mika Hakkinen in a McLaren when it would be more sensible to proceed as if driving a Morris Minor?

Alas, like so many issues in the Ecclestone business world, no one will explain why investors are being asked to pay up now

Investor inertia spoils Tokyo show

Apathy is sometimes a far more revealing reaction than direct criticism. That the Japanese Government's latest, and largest, stimulus package barely caused a ripple in the markets speaks volumes for the country's seemingly intractable pessimism. Analysts were willing to concede that the 24 trillion yen (£119 billion) package is an improvement on earlier attempts. The move away from traditional public works projects to investment in health, education and IT should benefit a wider section of the economy. The credit guarantee measures will help small and medium-sized businesses that have been hard hit by the country's credit crunch. The absence of substantial tax

cuts has, however, left the market convinced that consumers will find no new reason to increase their spending. Unemployment is set to continue to rise. And if consumers are not spending, there is little incentive for businesses to raise their own investment levels.

The Japanese Government has for too long resembled a bungling doctor, prescribing the wrong-sized dose of medicine. As a result, the Japanese economy has become largely inured to the cure and needs bigger and bigger doses just to prevent the disease spreading further. With the Government's own Budget now near breaking point and the market saturated with bonds, this was probably the last chance for a Government cure. Time now appears the only healer.

Lady snooty

THE condescending tone used by Patricia Hewitt when talking about the people who tend to use credit unions is rather in line with government thinking. Labour used to be about helping the poor, but now it sees the "socially disadvantaged" as an inconvenience, getting in the way of Labour's real target, the middle classes. Perhaps it is the remnants of the Financial Secretary's Australian accent which made her sound snooty, or maybe just a hangover from her time at Andersen Consulting.

Unigate hurt by glut of pork on world markets

BY ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

A GLUT of pork on the world market, coupled with a slump in demand for butter substitute spreads, undermined profits at Unigate, the dairy and food group.

Pigs bred at the height of the BSE scare in anticipation of soaring supply for pig meat are now flooding on to the market, Unigate said yesterday. The economic turmoil in Asia and Russia has also hit the consumption of pig meat.

Overall pre-tax profits were unchanged at £67.5 million in the six months to September 30, but this was achieved as a result of higher interest income and the release of an unused acquisition provision. Unigate, which came close

to buying the Hillsdown Holdings food group in the spring, has a cash pile of £166 million.

The pork and spreads difficulties led to a 14 per cent decline in operating profits in Unigate's UK fresh food division. In Europe fresh food operating profits fell 6 per cent to £48.1 million.

The high-profile launch of the soft drink Sunny Deight by Procter & Gamble also hurt Unigate's sales of fruit juices, which declined 11 per cent in the half.

Overall operating profits were down 6 per cent at £59.5 million, although these were adversely affected by a £3.6 million charge incurred in ensuring its computer systems

are free of danger from the millennium bug.

Sir Ross Buckland, chief executive, said he could not explain the decline in demand for spreads. But he said the problem, which hit Unigate's Utterly Butterly, Gold and Vitalite brands, was common to all yellow fat suppliers, including real butter.

Sir Ross said: "None of us are satisfied with these results but the team has produced a creditable performance in difficult circumstances."

He added: "The UK economy remains under pressure. This has created challenging trading conditions which we expect will continue in the second half and probably means a pause in our growth."

Operating profits at Wincanton, the logistics subsidiary, grew 17 per cent helped by deals with Littlewoods, the retailer, and SmithKline Beecham, the pharmaceuticals group. Adjusted earnings were 21.7p, against 21.3p. The interim dividend is raised 53 per cent to 7.9p from 7.5p.

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Buffett portfolio takes a buffeting

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

WARREN BUFFETT, the investor known for picking crisis-proof stocks, has underperformed market indices during the third quarter as the value of his assets plunged by 15 per cent.

Berkshire Hathaway, Mr Buffett's fund, was hit by the decline of US share prices that sliced a third off each of his three biggest holdings — American Express, Coca-Cola and Gillette. According to a report from Berkshire, the value of its total assets fell from \$64

billion to \$54 billion (about £32.4 billion). During the same period the Dow Jones index declined 12 per cent and the S&P 500 index fell 10 per cent.

In previous market slumps, Mr Buffett usually outperformed the market.

Mr Buffett is America's second richest man with a personal fortune of \$30 billion. As the highest shareholder of his Omaha-based fund, Mr Buffett will have seen his wealth damaged by the asset value plunge.



Alan Bowkett, head of Berisford, the Magnet kitchens company, is cooking up plans for an acquisition worth up to £200 million

Berisford to seek US listing

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BERISFORD, which operates a food service equipment business and the Magnet kitchen and joinery stores, is seeking a second listing in New York because it is dissatisfied with its poor share price performance in London.

Alan Bowkett, chief executive, said that Berisford is talk-

ing to officials from the New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq about a possible listing and hopes to have it arranged within the next year.

He also said that Berisford aims to invest up to £200 million in a big acquisition, possibly in Germany, the UK or the US. It would probably be in food service equipment, in which the company already

operates in the US, through its Welbilt subsidiary.

Mr Bowkett said that Berisford is also considering buying back some of its shares. Berisford saw underlying pre-tax profits rise 27 per cent to £50.2 million, last year on sales up 8 per cent, to £91.2 million. Fully diluted earnings per share rose 30 per cent, to 23.4p. A final dividend

of 6.3p (4.5p) makes 9.5p (6.5p). The shares yesterday rose 4 1/2p to 169 1/2p, having peaked in June at 260p.

Mr Bowkett said that current trading is particularly volatile. In the past six weeks, joinery sales have been slightly down on last year, but kitchen sales remain slightly up.

Tempus, page 32

Former Scotia chief raises further £2m

BY PAUL DURMAN

DAVID HORROBIN, the former chief executive of Scotia Holdings, has taken advantage of the recent recovery in the drug development company's share price to raise another £2 million or more.

Dr Horrobin, who was forced out of

Scotia this year, sold 940,000 shares in September to fund his new research company. Over the past month, he has sold another 2.3 million shares, cutting the holding he controls by almost 3 per cent to 12.4 per cent.

Scotia's shares rose 7 1/2p to 134p yesterday as it announced plans to save £1 million a year by laying off 30 scientists

in Nova Scotia, Canada, and renegotiating a £3 million loan with the Government of Nova Scotia. The price, above 700p last year, fell to a low of 85p last month.

The Government of Nova Scotia has agreed to allow Scotia to defer interest and capital repayments and may convert its debt into shares at

prices between 190p and 280p. Previous loans were used to the jobs created at the ERI.

The Capital Group of companies, another large investor, has also sold 715,900 shares for about £850,000 — believed to be substantially less than it paid for them. Capital still holds a stake of 6.9 per cent.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Cautious investors still hopeful of US rate cut

GROWING hopes of a cut in US interest rates and an easing of tension in the Gulf enabled share prices to start the week on a firm note.

Share prices were squeezed higher in thin trading with brokers expressing satisfaction at the market's performance despite prices closing below their best levels of the day.

The FTSE 100 index touched 5,540.7 before ending the session up 47.3 points at 5,510.5 in low volume of 672 million shares. The FTSE 250 index ended 9.2 higher at 4,835.6.

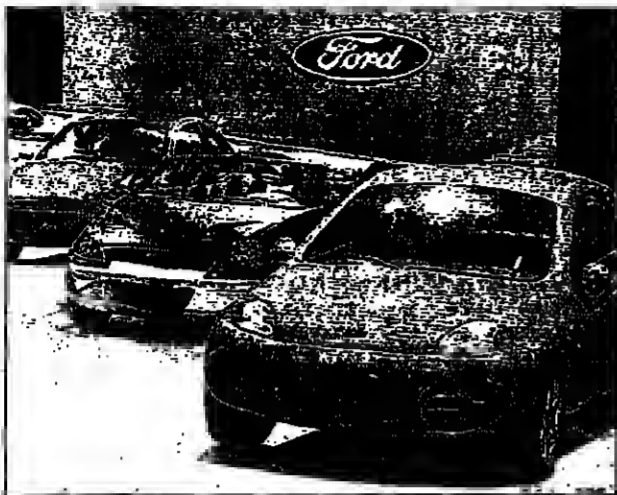
Brokers were happy to cling on to the prospect of a cut in US rates which, in turn, would put further pressure on the Bank of England to cut rates again next month.

One of the best performers among blue chips was Rentokil initial with a rise of 16 1/2p to 376 1/2p, after touching 385p on turnover of 4 million shares. Sir Clive Thompson, chief executive, is meeting a number of fund managers at a lunch today arranged by HSC Securities, the broker. It follows a highly successful roadshow by the company in the US last month.

P&O stood out with a rise of 35p to 615p with WestLB Panmure, the broker, moving its recommendation from "buy" to "strong buy" and rival Williams de Broe chipping in with a "buy" recommendation. Sentiment was also cheered by reports of price rises being implemented by Eurotunnel, 5p better at 79p, which would enable the P&O/Stena consortium to follow suit. British Airways struggled to stay on course with the price dropping 10 1/2p to 352 1/2p after Salomon Smith Barney, the US securities house, downgraded its recommendation and cut its target price from 500p to 440p.

Salomon is worried about the impact a recession would have on profits. It has moved the shares from "outperform" to "hold".

Elsewhere, in the sector, First Group, the bus operator, rose 9 1/2p to 465 1/2p ahead of interim results, expected to show pre-tax profits of £30 million. Word is that Cazenove, the company's own broker, has been trying to place a large line of stock for the past week. This has led to claims the results may be accompanied by a rights issue to help finance another acquisition. Stagecoach fell 7p to 228p



Dagenham Motors, the Ford dealer, increased 18 1/2p to 143 1/2p on speculation that it will be the subject of a bid

despite some encouraging comments from HSBC Securities. It has moved the shares from "add" to "buy". It has reduced its recommendation for BAA, up 13p to 661p, from "buy" to "add". NFC, 2 1/2p easier at 113p, from "reduce" to "hold" and Arriva, 6 1/2p firmer at 384p, up from "hold" to "add". Vodafone surged 4 1/2p to 851 1/2p ahead of results. The

television broadcaster, 26 1/2p to 57p. Max Ulfane has bought 10,000 shares at 547p.

British Biotech finished 3 1/2p lower at 40 1/2p with HSBC Securities continuing to urge clients to "sell". This offset news that Oechsle International Advisers has increased its stake to 60.9 million shares, or 9.22 per cent.

Michael Ashcroft, former boss of ADT, the security specialist, has hit the acquisition trail. Carlisle Holdings, his new vehicle, has made an agreed offer of 130p a share for Abacus Recruitment, up 42 1/2p to 177 1/2p. It values the recruitment specialist at £14.6 million.

AIM-listed Carisic currently has a war chest of about £80 million to spend after a cash injection by Ashcroft.

Investment drove Dagenham Motors 18 1/2p higher to 143 1/2p. In September, the Ford Motor Company proposed a joint venture with Jardine Motors. One of the options being considered by the joint venture is a bid for Dagenham Motors. Dagenham boasts a net asset value of 180p a share and is expected to produce pre-tax profits of £6.5 million producing earnings a share of 22p. Even on a modest rating of ten, it would value the business at 220p a share.

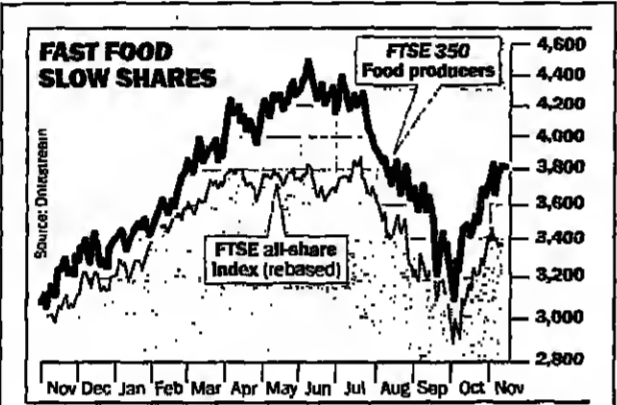
News of a bid approach lifted Barbican Healthcare 20 1/2p to 80 1/2p. At these levels, the AIM-quoted group is capitalised at £15.5 million.

There was further heavy turnover in Booker which firmed another 3 1/2p to 72p on speculative buying as 3.67 million shares changed hands.

IT GILT-EDGED: There was little enthusiasm among investors to chase bond prices higher ahead of today's meeting of the Federal Reserve Open Market Committee. Dealers say the prospect of a cut in US interest rates appears remote, but such a move would put pressure on the Bank of England to follow suit next month and provide another boost to bond prices.

Even so, prices managed to make modest headway in thin trading. The December series of the long gilt rose 17p to £115.15, while among conventional issues Treasury 7.25 per cent 2007 rose £0.02 to £117.

NEW YORK: Shares reacted positively to the situation in Iraq. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 69.26 points to 8,988.85.



SOME words of caution about current trading led Unigate nursing a fall of 2 1/2p to 502p and also cast a shadow over the rest of the food manufacturers.

Northern Foods, with half-year results out this morning, was shown no mercy. It shares closed 7 1/2p down at 167 1/2p with brokers fearing a similar fate.

Northern is one of the biggest suppliers of prepared foods to Marks & Spencer, which recently reported a 3.5 per cent downturn in food sales in the quarter to the June 30, and a further 0.5 per cent in the quarter ending September 30.

Brokers are forecasting unchanged pre-tax profits of £42 million for Northern. Food companies suffered some of the biggest falls in the FTSE 250 index. TeraNova, demerged from Hillsdown, lost 4 1/2p at 112p while Hazlewood Foods shed 3p at 134 1/2p. Geest 8 1/2p at 435p, and Acetas & Hutcheson 6p at 122 1/2p.

The one bright spot was Tate & Lyle, up 28 1/2p at 354 1/2p.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	Dow Jones	8996.85 (+62.26)
	S&P Composite	1133.81 (+9.09)
Tokyo:	Nikkei Average	14428.27 (+160.06)
Hong Kong:	Hong Kong	10290.09 (+100.10)
Amsterdam:	Amsterdam	1059.84 (+25.48)
Sydney:	Sydney	2674.51 (+8.40)
Düsseldorf:	Düsseldorf	4183.77 (+44.12)
Singapore:	Singapore	1241.74 (+34.83)
Brussels:	Brussels	2163.59 (+11.31)
Paris:	CAC-40	3621.85 (+29.62)
Zurich:	S&A Index	1297.80 (+4.20)
London:	FT 30	3394.4 (+27.50)
	FTSE 100	5510.5 (+47.3)
	FTSE 250	4835.6 (+9.2)
	FTSE 1000	2322.21 (+15.6)
	FTSE Europe 100	3222.80 (+37.11)
	FTSE All-Share	2538.44 (+18.00)
	FTSE Non-Financials	2696.86 (+11.80)
	FTSE Financials	1517.81 (+3.84)
	FTSE Govt Secs	112.02 (+4.01)
Berlin:	DAX	3399.84
SEK Volume:	SEK Volume	172.28m
US:	US	1.6756 (+0.0028)
German Mark:	German Mark	2.7824 (-0.0216)
Exchange Index:	Exchange Index	100.8 (-0.05)
Dax on England official close (4pm):	Dax on England official close (4pm)	1.4261
ESX:	ESX	1.2011
EUR:	EUR	1.6199
100:	100	1.6199
100:	100	1.6199

RECENT ISSUES

Anglian Water B	51 1/2	...
Chenail	70	+ 5
Collective Assets Trust	117	...
First Active	286 1/2	...
Five Arrows Chile USD065	14 1/2	...
Five Arrows USD004167	112 1/2	...
Five Arrows USLn 2040	14 1/2	...
Guinness FII Gld 18G	102 1/2	...
Guinness FII Gld 18G Inc	106	...
Guinness FII Gld Zero Div Pl	103 1/2	...
Honeycombe Leisure	65	...
INVESTCO Rec Zero Div Pl	101	...
INVESTCO Recovery 1st	95	...
MSW Technology	96	...
Merley B	10 1/2	...
Natl Bldg Mts Cx Pl	105	...
Natural Building Mts	105	...
Old Monk Company	53 1/2	...
Piccadilly Growth 1s	97 1/2	...
REHAB 8 (100)	97 1/2	...
Thelma 1st Gen Cum Pl	14 1/2	...
Xenova Warrants	13 1/2	...

RISHTS ISSUES

AdvantaMedicine n/p (144)	1 1/2
Bloomsbury Publishing n/p (145)	4 1/2

MAJOR CHANGES

Abacus Recruit	177 1/2	+ 42 1/2	+ 23.4
Abbot Group	125	+ 21	+ 16.7
Admiral	128 1/2	+ 12	+ 9.4
Independent	217 1/2	+ 18	+ 8.3
Dobbies Garden	245	+ 20	+ 8.2
Marlborough Int	222 1/2	+ 17 1/2	+ 7.9
Marlborough Int	222 1/2	+ 17 1/2	+ 7.9
Tate & Lyle	317 1/2	+ 26 1/2	+ 8.2
Edios	860	+ 60	+ 7.0
Charakter Dip	296	+ 19 1/2	+ 6.6
AngloGold	295 1/2	+ 19 1/2	+ 6.6
Thomson Corp	1319	+ 81	+ 6.1
Liberty	165	+ 10	+ 6.1
Schrod Korea	223 1/2	+ 13 1/2	+ 5.9
Honda Motor	192 1/2	+ 11 1/2	+ 5.8
Seaspan	192 1/2	+ 11 1/2	+ 5.8
TDK	452 1/2	+ 24 1/2	+ 5.4

FALLS:

Stock Drifter (Amex)	153 1/2	- 38	- 25.8
Rayold	138 1/2	- 29	- 21.2
Adam & Harvey	135	- 30	- 22.2
Firth Rossan	76	- 12	- 15.8
Six Handred	70 1/2	- 11	- 15.4

TEMPUS

Milking distribution

The most attractive bit of Unigate, the fresh food and dairy company, has nothing to do with either food or milk. Wincanton, its distribution subsidiary, was the highlight of yesterday's half-year results.

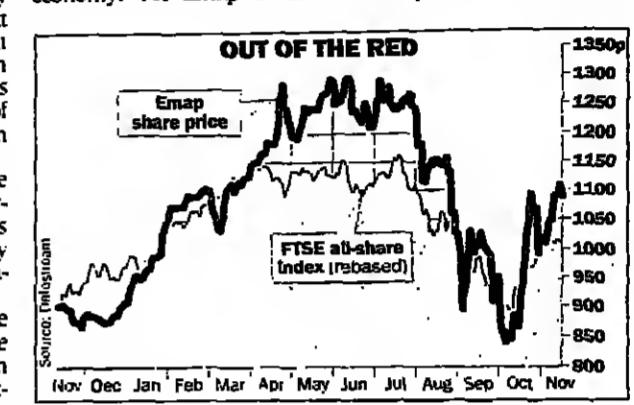
While most Unigate observers focus on the food side and lately the on-off bid shenanigans with Hillsdown Holdings, Wincanton has been built into a handy business. It contributes less than a quarter of group profits but sales revenues - not burdened with deflation like its sibling operations - are moving up.

It is also an area that Unigate may find is more promising for acquisitions, which it needs to find if pressure to buy back shares is to ease. The relief among Unigate's top brass at not trying the knot with Hillsdown, which has gone steadily downhill since the spring bid talks collapsed, is tangible. The promise

being shown by Wincanton may persuade Unigate that the best use of resources is in that side of the business. It could exploit the home shopping ambitions of the supermarkets by capitalising on its doorstep milk delivery expertise.

Logistics is not exactly a sexy business but beside food manufacturing anything looks good. It is dreadfully difficult to make money from food. It seems there is always either a glut of some foodstuff or other, which forces prices down, or a famine, which means that there is no product around to sell. Even in steadier times, producers have to cede most of the pricing power to retailers.

The prospective dividend yield of 5.7 per cent should underpin the Unigate share price. But until a home is found for its cash, the shares will drift. Only a hold.



EMAP is good at launching new magazines, and equally good at killing off failures with dispatch. In the apparently well-served waters of its latest offering Red has been a considerable success. In the rampant young market FHM has become a legend and one the company hopes to repeat in the US next year. A new entertainment weekly planned for launch in the UK next spring sounds higher risk but the instincts of Emap's consumer mag team ought to be trusted.

Elsewhere in the group the strong presence in commercial radio is paying dividends and well complemented by the acquisition of Melody Radio in London.

On the exhibition side Emap's Spring Show at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, devoted to gift-

ware, is so popular they've had three extra exhibition halls built.

The chairman, Rohin Miller, knocked nearly 3 per cent off Emap's share price yesterday by referring to a slowing down of revenues in its main UK markets. This remains a worry because it is dependent on the health of the consumer economy. Yet Emap is also well run and less exposed to recession than most media groups.

After being hammered hard over the summer Emap shares have recovered from a low of 840p to 1081p last night. At such levels Emap's qualities are accounted for. There may be a pause until it demonstrates new achievement, particularly overseas. Hold.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE	COCCOA	ICE-LOR (London 6.00pm)	CRUDE OILS (Edinburgh 6.00pm)
Dec 98	973.972	Nov 98	11.18
Mar 99	1008.1028	Dec 98	11.18
Jun 99	1027.1028	Jan 99	11.18
Sep 99	1045.1044	Feb 99	11.18
Dec 99	1054.1052	Mar 99	11.18
Mar 00	1065.1062	Apr 99	11.18
Jun 00	1076.1073	May 99	11.18
Sep 00	1087.1084	Jun 99	11.18
Dec 00	1098.1095	Jul 99	11.18
Mar 01	1109.1106	Aug 99	11.18
Jun 01	1120.1117	Sep 99	11.18
Sep 01	1131.1128	Oct 99	11.18
Dec 01	1142.1139	Nov 99	11.18
Mar 02	1153.1150	Dec 99	11.18
Jun 02	1164.1161	Jan 00	11.18
Sep 02	1175.1172	Feb 00	11.18
Dec 02	1186.1183	Mar 00	11.18
Mar 03	1197.1194	Apr 00	11.18
Jun 03	1208.1205	May 00	11.18
Sep 03	1219.1216	Jun 00	11.18
Dec 03	1230.1227	Jul 00	11.18
Mar 04	1241.1238	Aug 00	11.18
Jun 04	1252.1249	Sep 00	11.18
Sep 04	1263.1260	Oct 00	11.18
Dec 04	1274.1271	Nov 00	11.18
Mar 05	1285.1282	Dec 00	11.18
Jun 05	1296.1293	Jan 01	11.18
Sep 05	1307.1304	Feb 01	11.18
Dec 05	1318.1315	Mar 01	11.18
Mar 06	1329.1326	Apr 01	11.18
Jun 06	1340.1337	May 01	11.18
Sep 06	1351.1348	Jun 01	11.18
Dec 06	1362.1359	Jul 01	11.18
Mar 07	1373.1370	Aug 01	11.18
Jun 07	1384.1381	Sep 01	11.18
Sep 07	1395.1392	Oct 01	11.18
Dec 07	1406.1403	Nov 01	11.18
Mar 08	1417.1414	Dec 01	11.18
Jun 08	1428.1425	Jan 02	11.18
Sep 08	1439.1436	Feb 02	11.18
Dec 08	1450.1447	Mar 02	11.18
Mar 09	1461.1458	Apr 02	11.18
Jun 09	1472.1469	May 02	11.18
Sep 09	1483.1480	Jun 02	11.18
Dec 09	1494.1491	Jul 02	11.18
Mar 10	1505.1502	Aug 02	11.18
Jun 10	1516.1513	Sep 02	11.18
Sep 10	1527.1524	Oct 02	11.18
Dec 10	1538.1535	Nov 02	11.18
Mar 11	1549.1546	Dec 02	11.18
Jun 11	1560.1557	Jan 03	11.18
Sep 11	1571.1568	Feb 03	11.18
Dec 11	1582.1579	Mar 03	11.18
Mar 12	1593.1590	Apr 03	11.18
Jun 12	1604.1601	May 03	11.18
Sep 12	1615.1612	Jun 03	11.18
Dec 12	1626.1623	Jul 03	11.18
Mar 13	1637.1634	Aug 03	11.18
Jun 13	1648.1645	Sep 03	11.18
Sep 13	1659.1656	Oct 03	11.18
Dec 13	1670.1667	Nov 03	11.18
Mar 14	1681.1678	Dec 03	11.18
Jun 14	1692.1689	Jan 04	11.18
Sep 14	1703.1700	Feb 04	11.18
Dec 14	1714.1711	Mar 04	11.18
Mar 15	1725.1722	Apr 04	11.18
Jun 15	1736.1733	May 04	11.18
Sep 15	1747.1744	Jun 04	11.18
Dec 15	1758.1755	Jul 04	11.18
Mar 16	1769.1766	Aug 04	11.18
Jun 16	1780.1777	Sep 04	11.18
Sep 16	1791.1788	Oct 04	11.18
Dec 16	1802.1799	Nov 04	11.18
Mar 17	1813.1810	Dec 04	11.18
Jun 17	1824.1821	Jan 05	11.18
Sep 17	1835.1832	Feb 05	11.18
Dec 17	1846.1843	Mar 05	11.18
Mar 18	1857.1854	Apr 05	11.18
Jun 18	1868.1865	May 05	11.18
Sep 18	1879.1876	Jun 05	11.18
Dec 18	1890.1887	Jul 05	11.18
Mar 19	1901.1898	Aug 05	11.18
Jun 19	1912.1909	Sep 05	11.18
Sep 19	1923.1920	Oct 05	11.18
Dec 19	1934.1931	Nov 05	11.18
Mar 20	1945.1942	Dec 05	11.18
Jun 20	1956.1953	Jan 06	11.18
Sep 20	1967.1964	Feb 06	11.18
Dec 20	1978.1975	Mar 06	11.18
Mar 21	1989.1986	Apr 06	11.18
Jun 21	2000.1997	May 06	11.18
Sep 21	2011.2008	Jun 06	11.18
Dec 21	2022.2019	Jul 06	11.18
Mar 22	2033.2030	Aug 06	11.18
Jun 22	2044.2041	Sep 06	11.18
Sep 22	2055.2052	Oct 06	11.18
Dec 22	2066.2063	Nov 06	11.18
Mar 23	2077.2074	Dec 06	11.18
Jun 23	2088.2085	Jan 07	11.18
Sep 23	2099.2096	Feb 07	11.18
Dec 23	2110.2107	Mar 07	11.18
Mar 24	2121.2118	Apr 07	11.18
Jun 24	2132.2129	May 07	11.18
Sep 24	2143.2140	Jun 07	11.18
Dec 24	2154.2151	Jul 07	11.18
Mar 25	2165.2162	Aug 07	11.18
Jun 25	2176.2173	Sep 07	11.18
Sep 25	2187.2184	Oct 07	11.18
Dec 25	2198.2195	Nov 07	11.18
Mar 26	2209.2206	Dec 07	11.18
Jun 26	2220.2217	Jan 08	11.18
Sep 26	2231.2228	Feb 08	11.18
Dec 26	2242.2239	Mar 08	11.18
Mar 27	2253.2250	Apr 08	11.18
Jun 27	2264.2261	May 08	11.18
Sep 27	2275.2272	Jun 08	11.18
Dec 27	2286.2283	Jul 08	11.18
Mar 28	2297.2294	Aug 08	11.18
Jun 28	2308.2305	Sep 08	11.18
Sep 28	2319.2316	Oct 08	11.18
Dec 28	2330.2327	Nov 08	



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THE TIMES
 Carlisle secures first deal
 Fall for Cropp
 Workplace
 Hobbies
 Steel
 AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER
 Christmas
 THE FIVE CDS ARE:
 ● Great
 ● Chant
 ● Back
 ● Christ
 ● Home
 ● Wonder
 ● Fran
 The price
 Christmas
 November 22

Carlisle secures first deal

Carlisle Holdings, the new stock market vehicle set up by businessman and political activist Michael Ashcroft, yesterday announced its first deal, the acquisition of Abacus Recruitment. The agreed takeover values Abacus at £14.6 million, or 189p per share.

Fall for Cropper Shares of James Cropper, the specialist paper maker, fell nearly 40p to 153.5p after the announcement of a 54 per cent drop in half-year pre-tax profits. In the six months to September 26 profits fell to £670,000 from £1.47 million last time.

Workspace gains Workspace Group, a provider of flexible workspace for small businesses, is optimistic about results for the full year after reporting pre-tax profits up 31.3 per cent on last time to £3.3 million for the half to September 30.

Holographics up Applied Holographics, a manufacturer of holographic film and security and packaging products, yesterday reported net profit of £966,000 for the six months to September 30, up from £55,200 for the same period last year.

Steel firm hit Adam & Harvey Group, the steel stockholding and distribution company, yesterday said economic conditions in Africa and Asia had "taken their toll" of its results.

Hopes for merger of W&D and Marston's diminish

By DOMINIC WALSH

THE prospects of a merger between Marston, Thompson & Evershed and Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries (W&D), the West Midlands brewers, appeared to recede yesterday as Marston's unveiled plans to return £60 million to shareholders.

It is offloading a package of 549 of its 631 tenancies and 20 of its managed pubs to the Premier Pub Company. The deal is being financed through a £155 million securitisation negotiated by Nomura International.

Under the terms of the deal, which is subject to shareholder approval, Marston's will retain a nominal interest in the business and has been granted an exclusive four-year supply agreement by Premier.

However, any chance of an agreed deal appeared to diminish as the two sides embarked on a war of words on the nature of the contract between them since last week's statement. Marston's said it had received no more than "a courtesy call", whereas W&D was adamant there had been two telephone conversations between the chairmen and proposals had been discussed by the two sets of advisers.

The news overshadowed a disappointing set of half-year results from Marston's as the effects of the World Cup, the weather and weaker consumer spending took their toll. Including an exceptional charge of £1.1 million from unwinding its involvement in Mercury Taverns, pre-tax profits declined by 7 per cent to £14.7 million from turnover 7.5 per cent ahead at £14.5 million.

The shares, which had risen from a low of 172½p on bid hopes, fell 17p to 226½p.

Tempus, page 32

Emap sticks with £5m launch

By RAYMOND SNOOG MEDIA EDITOR

EMAP, the magazine, radio and exhibitions group, is pushing ahead with its biggest UK consumer magazine launch in the spring despite evidence of a slowing of growth in United Kingdom revenue.

The magazine, codenamed Project "J", will be a weekly covering the entertainment world. The launch and promotional costs could be as high as £5 million.

Emap is to go ahead with the venture despite economic uncertainties, showing faith in the division that put forward the proposal. Kevin Hand, Emap chief executive, said: "That's the difference between bankers and publishers."

Yesterday Emap announced a 16 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £75 million, excluding goodwill amortisation and disposal profits for the six months to September 30. Emap also said it hoped to go ahead with the US launch of FHM, its men's magazine, next year.

Robin Miller, chairman, said the revenue slowdown in its main UK markets would "impact our business throughout the rest of the year and into next, although we are still anticipating good growth".

The launch of Red, its new women's magazine, had been more successful than expected, the company said, but a significant launch in France had been aborted because sales were too low.

Adjusted earnings rose 17 per cent to 23.8p a share. The interim dividend is lifted 15 per cent to 5.7p a share.

Tempus, page 32



Kevin Hand said Emap's decision showed the difference between publishers and bankers

Kvaerner denies it is close to defaulting

By ADAM JONES

KVAERNER, the Anglo-Norwegian engineer, said yesterday that it was not close to defaulting on loans, despite plunging to a £92 million loss in the third quarter.

Christian Bjelland, chairman, said the result, which reverses a profit of £72 million in the same period last year, was "very, very poor".

The deficit was the result of a flurry of asset writedowns and provisions against losses. Kvaerner was forced to cut the book value of its share of the Sea Launch programme — which will use ships to fire satellites from next year — by £34 million to be more "prudent".

Kvaerner also wrote down the value of assets in the oil and gas division. Provisions against contract losses also increased by about £18 million net. Kvaerner said its shipbuilding and oil and gas divisions are dominated by projects that are not generating profits.

Kvaerner also gave warning that the Govan shipyard in Glasgow will run out of orders by the end of next summer without further contract wins.

The company recently ousted Erik Tonseth, its chief executive, after his shares dove to an 11-year low. Kjell Atmskog, his replacement, is heading a root-and-branch review of Kvaerner's businesses that could lead to core businesses being jettisoned to reduce its £1.1 billion debt burden.

European Union debates education

The EU today threw its member states into some confusion about the future of education policy. The commission ministers are meeting in Brussels today to discuss a compromise proposal that would see the priority of secondary education across the board, and the next millennium. Difficulties appear to surround the proposal, which would force different countries to speak the same language. The idea, in essence, is promising. From school to post-graduate, every student in the EU would be exactly the same.

Professor Terry Slade, consultant education specialist to the EU, insisted the idea was not "dead in the water" as some critics had suggested. "A little fine-tuning is all the idea requires," he said. "Other avenues have to be explored. Reviving Esperanto, a universal language is one of these, forcing everyone to speak English is another. I personally feel that the use of mime is a viable option, although for the communication of the more arcane branches of pure mathematics or astrophysics this could prove more difficult." However, trials are already underway involving mime troups and circus. Some of the ideas were accidentally leaked during a rush hour and caused panic in the central commercial district. The proposals were beamed down on the school and were going to be a European Education summit. It was to be a fact-comprehensive system was flawless, but by God we were not to speak in our own language in which we think of at least three times the top...

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Sidlaw remains cautious

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

SIDLAW, the packaging company that has emerged from a lengthy period of restructuring, yesterday gave warning that despite progress in 1998 it remains cautious about the outlook for the next year.

The company, which is based in Edinburgh, reported full-year pre-tax profits before exceptionals up 67 per cent to £8 million (£4.8 million) on turnover up 4 per cent to £153.4 million (£147 million).

John Durston, chief executive, said: "It will be difficult to replicate the profits growth we have seen, but I am sure we can build on the progress made over the past two years." Earnings fell to 9.8p (26.9p) due to last year's exceptional profit of £16.3 million resulting from the sale of its underperforming oil services business. Sidlaw shares rose 2p to 93½p.

Wardle Storeys ahead

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

WARDLE STOREYS, the parachutes and inflatable boats company, lifted pre-tax profits to £1.4 million from £12.5 million in the year to August 31, in spite of the adverse impact of the pound on both export and home markets.

While its inflatable systems division reported a 93 per cent rise in operating profits to £4.8 million (£2.5 million) on sales of £40 million (£30.1 million), both the group's remaining two divisions reported profits marginally down on last year. The airborne systems division made operating profits of £2.9 million (£3 million), while the technical products division made £6 million (£6.4 million).

Group turnover for the year is up to £116 million (£113 million). The final dividend is 15p, making a total of 22p, up 7.3 per cent. Comparable earnings were 36.6p (32.6p).

Pillar capital to be restructured

By CARL MORTISHED

PILLAR Property plans a large-scale capital restructuring aimed at returning cash to shareholders next summer.

Pillar has already asked its shareholders for permission to buy back about 10 per cent of the equity, which is worth about £40 million, but Raymond Mould, the chairman, believes that the market will not absorb enough of the spare cash.

Pillar's problem is that too few investments are coming on to the market. Mr Mould said: "We have excess capital we see no use for."

The sell-off of the Pillar Caisse joint venture portfolio left Pillar with £57 million in net cash proceeds. Mr Mould said that the company's balance sheet was 58 per cent geared, "with plenty of headroom". Preferred acquisitions are

large retail parks where Pillar sees the prospect for good rental growth because they continue to attract the best retailers. However, Mr Mould said that these rarely became available and the ban on new building on green field sites meant that good investments were becoming scarce.

Pillar's half-year pre-tax profit was up 47 per cent to £10 million after rental growth, including joint ventures, of £22 million (£17.9 million). Including joint ventures, Pillar's investment at the end of September totalled £936 million.

In November Pillar submitted a planning application for a leisure and retail scheme at Fulham Broadway in West London. The 212,000 sq ft project will include a 12-screen cinema, shops, restaurants and a supermarket.

THE TIMES CHRISTMAS CDs ORDER FORM. Table with columns: PRODUCT, CODE, PRICE, QTY, TOTAL. Includes a list of products (Gregorian Chants, Bach's Christmas Oratorio, etc.) and a section for customer details (Name, Address, Postcode, Day Tel) and payment information (Cheque/PO, Card Payment).

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Earlier gains halved

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table listing stock prices for Alcoholic Beverages including companies like Heineken and Carlsberg.

BANKS

Table listing stock prices for Banks including Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, and Royal Bank of Canada.

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Table listing stock prices for Breweries, Pubs & Restaurants including Anheuser-Busch and Heineken.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Table listing stock prices for Building Materials including Home Depot and Lowe's.

CHEMICALS

Table listing stock prices for Chemicals including Dow Chemical and Eastman Chemical.

CONSTRUCTION

Table listing stock prices for Construction including Bechtel and Fluor Daniel.

DISTRIBUTORS

Table listing stock prices for Distributors including Wal-Mart and Target.

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Table listing stock prices for Engineering and Vehicles including Ford and GM.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table listing stock prices for Alcoholic Beverages.

BANKS

Table listing stock prices for Banks.

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Table listing stock prices for Breweries, Pubs & Restaurants.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Table listing stock prices for Building Materials.

CHEMICALS

Table listing stock prices for Chemicals.

CONSTRUCTION

Table listing stock prices for Construction.

DISTRIBUTORS

Table listing stock prices for Distributors.

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Table listing stock prices for Engineering and Vehicles.

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Table listing stock prices for Food Manufacturers including Unilever and Nestle.

HEALTHCARE

Table listing stock prices for Healthcare including Pfizer and Merck.

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

Table listing stock prices for Household Goods & Textiles including Procter & Gamble.

INSURANCE

Table listing stock prices for Insurance including Allstate and Sun Life.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing stock prices for Investment Trusts.

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Table listing short-term interest rates.

SHORTS (over 15 years)

Table listing long-term interest rates.

MEDIUMS (6 to 15 years)

Table listing medium-term interest rates.

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Table listing stock prices for Alcoholic Beverages.

BANKS

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Table listing stock prices for Food Manufacturers.

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Main equity price table with columns for stock name, price, change, and percentage change. Includes sections for ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ENGINEERING, VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PROPERTY, RETAILERS FOOD, RETAILERS GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, and WATER.



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Manchester
pays tribute
to Henze
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THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE
The Bush takes
a wry look at
the pop world
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A place to recall home

A new £5.3 million extension has enhanced the Geffrye Museum's domestic delights. Francis Gilbert reports

Tomorrow the Prince of Wales will open the new extension to the Geffrye Museum in East London. It will be a great change in the life of this much-loved but (until now) slightly run-down institution, massively expanding the museum's scope without losing the Geffrye's charming character.

For many years the Geffrye has been one of the more unusual museums in the country. Until the building of the new extension, which has doubled the museum's floor space and greatly improved its coverage of the 20th century, all its rooms were housed in a long row of picturesque almshouses built in 1715 with money left by Sir Robert Geffrye, once the Lord Mayor of London. These cosy houses served as a retirement home for pensioners and widows for nearly 200 years before the buildings were saved from demolition after a petition by the Arts and Crafts Movement in 1914.

Although initially the museum was narrow in its focus — concentrating mainly on furniture made by local artisans — an inspired curator in the Thirties hit upon the idea of using the space to reveal how ordinary people lived their domestic lives. The combination of this accessible, contextual approach and the intimate setting of the almshouse was a winning formula and the Geffrye became something of a national treasure.

However, by the time that the present director and deputy director took over in the early 1990s, the place had a tired feeling. "It was a lovely, charming place but it had no clear focus," says Christine Lalumia, the deputy director. The director, David Dewing, adds: "We decided the best way to unlock its potential was to build an extension which would raise the museum's profile and attract more people."

They began planning in 1992 and, in a gesture typical of the Geffrye, they involved everyone connected with the museum in the planning — from the catering and security staff to powerful patrons such as the chairman of trustees, Baroness Brigstocke. The total project cost £5.3 million, of which £3.75 million has been provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Branson Coates Architecture were appointed to design the new building. They have doubled the floor space in an ingenious but unobtrusive way, by designing a building the same length as the original 18th-century buildings and with steel, glass and wood balustrades, and enters the lower concourse where there are two huge, almost futuristic classrooms. They are rigged up to enable the teaching of object handling, including pottery and ceramics. The interior walls are glass, so that visitors can see the educational work that the Geffrye does with local schools in Hackney, Tower Hamlets and elsewhere.

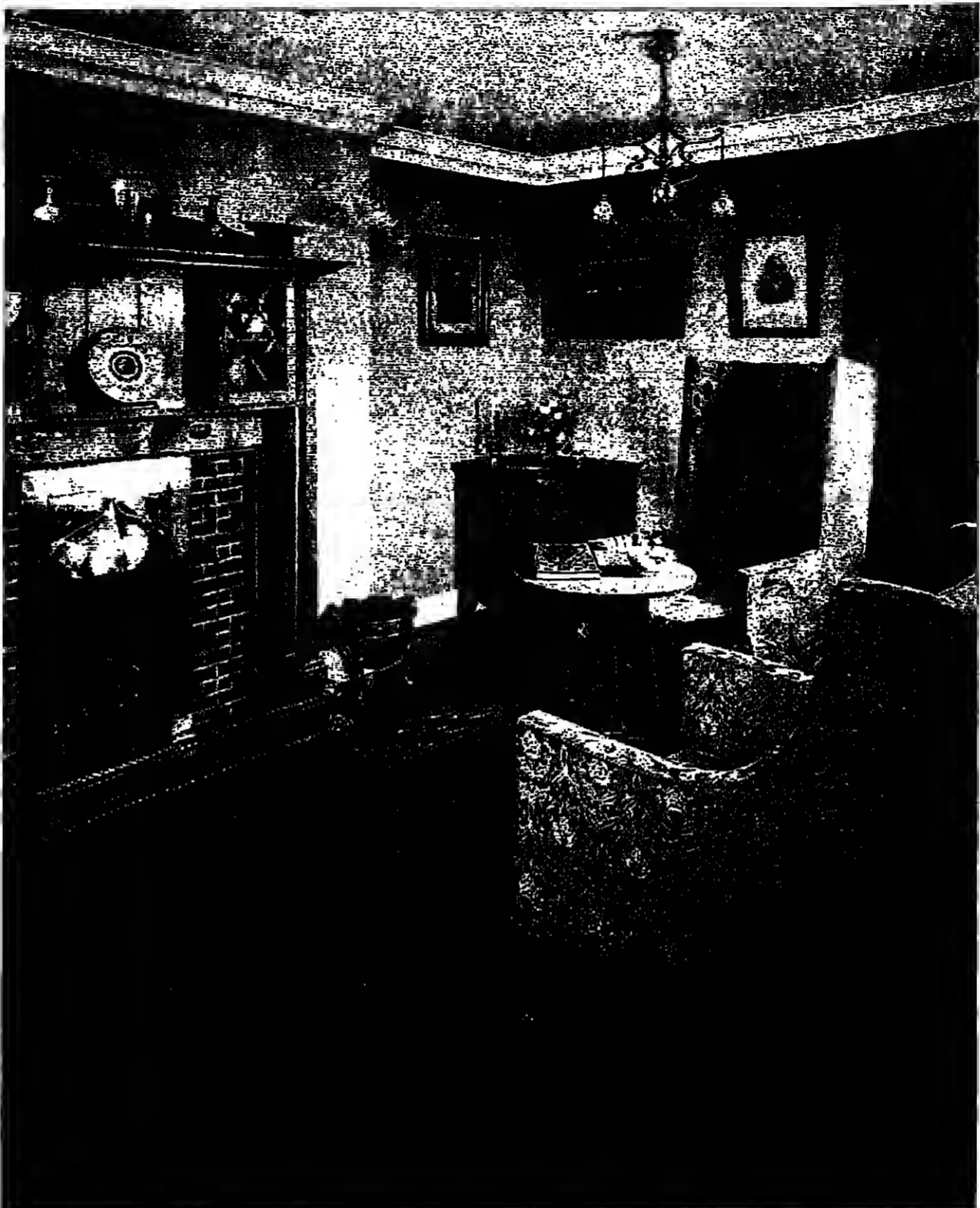
This lower level also houses a design centre that will showcase the best of the contemporary furniture and decorative arts which is produced in Hackney and East London. In addition, a fully secure temporary exhibition gallery on the lower level will enable the Geffrye to highlight the objects that are frequently loaned to it by the Victoria and Albert and other museums.

Having completed an indoor tour, after April next year you will be able to tour the period garden rooms. They will highlight the key styles of middle-class town gardens for the past four centuries. Each garden will correspond to a specific room in the museum.

All of the different threads of the Geffrye are successfully pulled together by this extension into a complete whole. The new design will highlight its educational programmes, extend its period rooms and gardens, improve its promotion of local artists and designers and highlight its importance as a national resource for both the public and scholars.

Building it has been a massive achievement, and it hasn't been easy to accomplish. "It's been pretty stressful," admits Lalumia. "But there is something about the Geffrye which transcends all the day-to-day problems. Sometimes I think that the almshouses must contain a benevolent ghost who solves our problems for us."

● The Geffrye Museum (0171-739 9893) is open to the public from Thursday: Tues to Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun noon-5pm. Entrance free



The "Arts and Crafts" style Edwardian room in the Museum's extension, which the Prince of Wales opens tomorrow

Speed thrills

ONE of the patron saints of jazz fusion, the British guitarist John McLaughlin is as revered for his fluent technique as for the vast catalogue of material he has written and recorded either in his own right or as the leader of such pioneering groups as the Mahavishnu Orchestra and Shakti.

At the Festival Hall he was accompanied by a muscular five-piece band named The Heart of Things, after his current album. Gary Thomas (sax and flute) and Omaria Ruiz (electric keyboards) were ostensibly the fore, whether playing contorted melody lines in unison with McLaughlin or blowing at a rate of knots in their own right. But the band was effectively dominated by the rhythm section — Matthew Garrison (electric bass), Victor Williams (percussion) and the hefty Dennis Chambers (drums). Chambers, who approached the task of drumming as if it were a branch of the martial arts, produced an explosive solo during Tony, while Williams shook, struck and blew all manner of objects to create the sound of a jungle dawn at the beginning of *Fallen Angels*.

McLaughlin seemed content to prowling the side of the stage for much of the time, leaving the way clear for the young guns to strut their stuff. But he still ensured that there was no doubt as to who was the boss. Bearing down every so often on either Thomas or Ruiz, he would throw down the gauntlet with a stinging flurry of notes, easily outpacing anything either of his sparring partners had to offer.

Dispatched with plenty of vigour and bravado, this was a dramatic set of virtuoso jazz for the rock generation.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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Revolutionary consistency

Looking at the immaculately turned out, impeccably polite 72-year-old composer at the Haas Werner Henze Festival in Manchester last week, I found it difficult to see in him the middle-aged revolutionary of 30 years ago. But the least predictable discovery of the five days of his music at the Royal Northern College of Music was the revelation of a consistency over a much longer period than that.

It might be true that the First Piano Concerto, which won the promising young composer the Robert Schumann Prize in 1951, is only half formed, both stylistically and structurally, and that the Eighth Symphony, written 40 years later, is as sophisticated as any orchestral score written since the death of Richard Strauss. But the personality behind the two works, both of which were included in the closing concert of the festival, is recognisably the same.

Much happened in the mean time — half a lifetime, in fact, including the period when the composer so fervently identified with student rebellion in the late 1960s. That was when he produced, alongside music theatre pieces as adolescent in concept as they are dramatic in effect, the Sixth Symphony performed by the RNCM SO with Elgar Howarth earlier in the week. Scored for two chamber orchestras and written specifically for the Cuban National Orchestra and a proletarian public in 1969, it is an extraordinary mixture of revolutionary sentiment and musical complexity. It is also, above all when played with such exuberance as it stimulated in these student musicians, an exhilarating experience driven largely by rhythm but also by sounds which — though not intended for the internal organs of an audience that couldn't tell the difference between a freedom song by Mikis Theodorakis and one from the Vietnamese Liberation Front — have a visceral impact.

What the Eighth Symphony has in common with the early Piano Concerto — which was first performed 46 years ago and which then disappeared without trace until Peter Donohoe, Ingo Metzmacher and the BBC Philharmonic so valua-

MANCHESTER CONCERTS

bly revived it for this first British performance — is a lyrical impulse always under the threat of violence. Some of the gestures of tenderness heard in the central slow section of the Concerto actually seem to be echoed in the Symphony. Although Henze in 1952 could not have written the masterful second movement, a sustained and, unfailingly entertaining Shakespearean scherzo based on the anomalous pairing of a shapely Titania with a grotesque Bottom, the same impulses are there.

GERALD LARNER

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A guide to the best available classical recordings, presented in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

BEEHOVEN'S "GHOST" PIANO TRIO

Reviewed by Julian Drake

YOU have only to hear the mysterious opening bars of the slow movement of this Beethoven trio to know why it is known as the *Ghost*. Rather like the equally famous *Moonlight* Sonata the music immediately suggests its title — or any rate, something like it.

Not that Beethoven himself ever gave these pieces labels; usually publishers thought an evocative name tag might sell a few more copies — and of course, not many composers complain about that.

There is another possible reason for the title. Beethoven wrote copiously all his life in sketchbooks, jotting down musical ideas and themes as they occurred to him and then working on them and developing them, often painstakingly and over long periods of time, until they achieved their final state.

In the sketchbooks of 1808,

alongside the themes that eventually became the *Ghost* Trio, are themes for a projected opera on Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. That opera never came into being, but perhaps it is not too fanciful to imagine, in the shattering climax of the slow movement, *Macbeth's* horror when he sees Banquo's ghost.

Anyway, there is no doubt that this slow movement is the emotional heart of the trio, and if the musicians fail to capture its mystery and spectral quality the performance loses its way. Believe me, it is strangely elusive and many fall by the wayside. Barenboim, Du Pré and Zukerman, the Beaux Arts Trio, Kempff, Szeryng, Fournier and Casals, Fuchs and Vegh all pass the test with flying colours.

But of course there are also

the first and last movements to consider, and they encompass a Beethovenian range: the strong and muscular, wistful and sweet, witty, graceful and delicate. For me it became apparent there was one quite outstanding recording. Daniel Barenboim, Jacqueline Du Pré and Pinchas Zukerman were not that long out of school when their EMI recording was made in 1970 (CMS 7 69707-2, £19.99 for a two-CD set that includes Elgar, Haydn and Beethoven), but I suspect that may well explain part of the freshness and spontaneity of their playing. However, there is also a profound seriousness and integrity, as well as an instinctive response to this great piece of chamber music. Above all the chemistry is right — they just play marvelously together.

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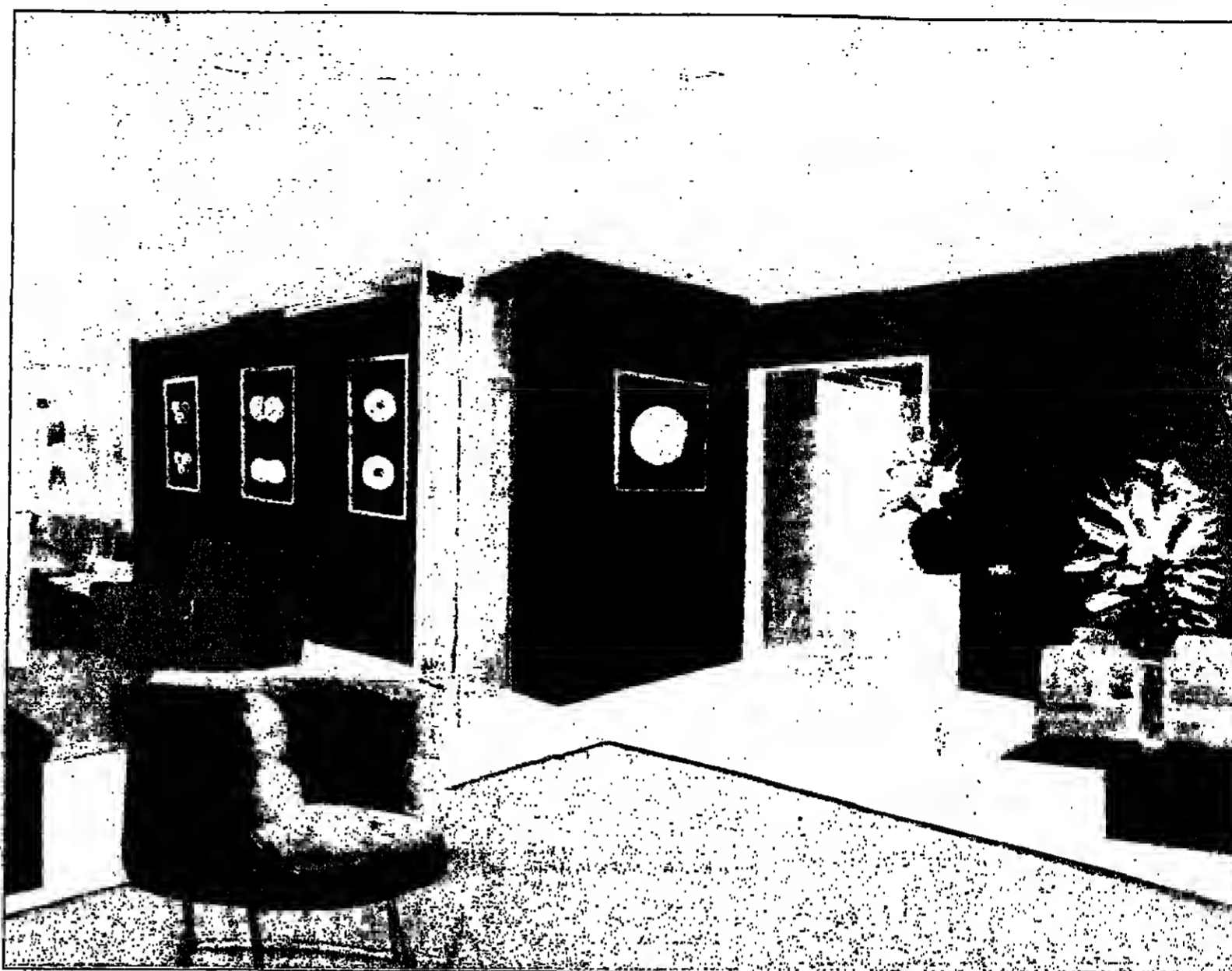
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A fatal attraction to cuteness



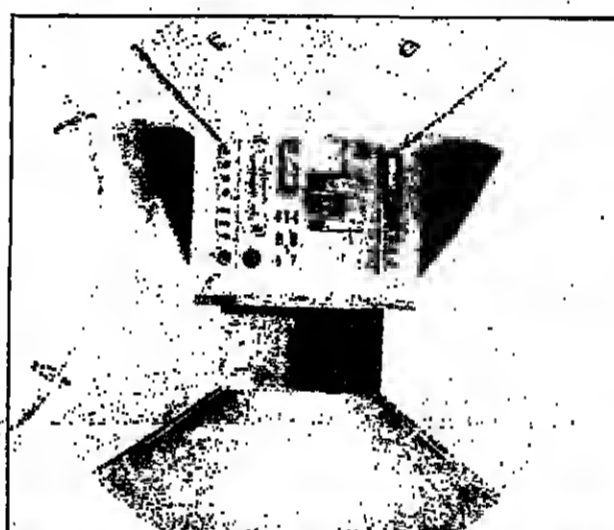
LEFT: Jun Hasegawa displays her dreamy comic-book style in Juliette Lewis. BELOW LEFT: I Love Black Music by sculptor Gary Webb. RIGHT: David Thorpe's Paisley Park



VISUAL ART: The 'new wave' on show at the ICA mostly looks backwards, says Richard Cork



LEFT: The oddly tender severed head of Mule by Caroline Warde. RIGHT: Apollo 12 by Dexter Dalwood, who typifies the mood of the exhibition by avoiding openly disturbing imagery



RIGHT: Jane Brennan's Nightingale makes a typical virtue of informality in a show where much of the art seems better suited to a home rather than to a museum



Just over a year from the century's end, the latest wave of British artists is flirting with suicide. *Die Young Stay Pretty*, urges the title of their show at the ICA. The first image confronting visitors, Dexter Dalwood's garish painting of Sharon Tate's house, might seem in thrall to violent, premature extinction. But no trace of blood or bodies can be found in this glossy, empty room, and the American flag draped over the white sofa sounds an unexpectedly festive note. In his avoidance of openly disturbing imagery, Dalwood typifies the mood of the entire exhibition. If death is hard to detect, a nostalgic love of retro glamour is more noticeable. Japanese-born, Goldsmiths-trained Jun Hasegawa moons over the young Paul Weller in her gloss-painted, cut-out collage. Like Dalwood, Hasegawa adopts a comic-book style dreamily dependent on Roy Lichtenstein and Alex Katz. Alongside these knowing references to the past, *Die Young Stay Pretty* reasserts the old hierarchy of painting and sculpture. Installations are nowhere to be seen, and the only video is confined to a small TV screen. Impersonality gives way to a renewed fascination with private lives and domestic surroundings.

Such concerns chime with the way Martin Maloney, the show's curator, used his own house in Brixton a few years ago as an unpretentious showcase called *Lost in Space*, making a virtue of informality. Even now, transposed to the ICA's Regency grandeur, much of the art still seems suited to a home rather than a museum. Jane Brennan's irritatingly cute panel paintings of beads, lotus flowers or mistletoe seem devoid of any impulse other than a vapid desire to indulge in faux-naïf prettiness. She lacks the feistiness shown by Maloney himself, who dares to brandish his childlike handling of oil paint on a canvas of monumental proportions. Taking his cue from Poussin's *The Choice of Hercules*, he updates the mythological scene by showing three figures partying to the blare of a ghetto-blaster. Stripped down to a pair of bulging trunks, with a towel flung rascally over one tanned shoulder, the man in the centre grins at the blonde beside him. She looks as rapturous as the brunette with the bare midriff on the other side. The frieze-like design possesses a Poussin-like classicism, but Maloney cultivates gaucheness. The only other artist with Maloney's chutzpah is the American Steven Gontarski. Yet even in his rampant pop-culture sculpture called *Wife*, the overtly sexual content

seems calculated to discourage arousal in the viewer. Imprisoned in their glistening straitjackets, these disconsolate lovers are akin to Sarah Lucas's *Bunny*, the kapok-stuffed figure who was the most forlorn exhibit in last year's *Sensation* survey at the Royal Academy.

Far from presenting an outright alternative to the *Sensation* show, *Die Young Stay Pretty* intersects with the earlier exhibition. Charles Saatchi has already acquired work by several of the artists displayed here, and he included two of the strongest artists now at the ICA: Maloney and Peter Davies. *The Hot One Hundred*, Davies's witest exhibit at the Royal Academy, relied for its impact on a written list of Davies's favourite artists. Here he leaves words behind to manipulate multicoloured stripes, cubes or white spirals on a black ground.

In his fascination with stridently decorative abstraction, Davies stands apart from his fellow exhibitors. For the overriding thrust of this show is allied with representation, even if the images are filtered through the mass-market culture of television, newspaper photographs and fanzine illustrations. David Thorpe's art-shop paper pictures look like period record covers, with a hint of old-fashioned psych-

edelia in their heightened colour oppositions. But the apocalyptic-sounding *Ready to Burn* turns out to be no more incendiary than three skyscrapers glowing orange against a pale pink sunset.

Michael Radecker first impressed me with his contributions to *Loose Threads* at the Serpentine Gallery, where minimal interiors took on a stark, alienated emptiness. Now Radecker aligns himself more clearly with his native Dutch tradition by moving out into the landscape. But there is nothing consolatory about his vision of the natural world. Haze explores a bleak panorama, its glacial desolation punctuated only by a few rocks, some perfunctory bushes and an isolated tree.

Here, if anywhere, is an artist whose bleakness begins to justify the exhibition's injunction to die. Caroline Warde's severed head of a mule might be stumbled upon in a similarly beighted place. Her modelling of this painted resin sculp-

ture is, however, more tender than harsh. She commands a quiet strangeness that compares favourably with the other sculptor in the show, Gary Webb. Intoxicated by combining Perspex, glass, plastic fruit, paper and acrylic paint, in order to make a form reminiscent of a Christmas candle with streamers, he succeeds merely in producing a concoction as wearisome as its title: *God Knows*.

It is left to the solitary video to sum up the show's dual obsession with morbidity and narcissism. The young gay man in *Teeth, Toes and Contact Lenses*, by Shaun Roberts and Gilbert McCarragher, swings feverishly between manic anxiety and prolonged self-absorption. His careful ablutions centre repeatedly on extensive scrutiny in the mirror. Towards the end, the man sinks grimly beneath the surface of his bath-water. But the threatened suicide turns out to be an illusion. Prettiness triumphs in his beguilingly candlelit world: and death is put on hold.

Die Young Stay Pretty is at the ICA (0171-930 0493) until Jan 10

'No trace of blood or bodies can be found here'

AROUND THE GALLERY

THE competence of Mark Shields as a painter is undoubted. But in this show he goes beyond mere technical mastery. His small portraits capture a sense of mystery too, of half-remembered faces and moods. But it is the landscapes which most enchant. Like gleaming fragments of a Corot canvas lovingly lifted from their context, they distil the mingled sentiments of sadness and joy to which any Romantic will only too easily respond. Grosvenor Gallery, 18 Albemarle St, London W1 (0171-629 0891) until Nov 27

ers are full of fascination, humour and allure. Festival Hall, London SE1, (0171-921 0600) until Nov 29

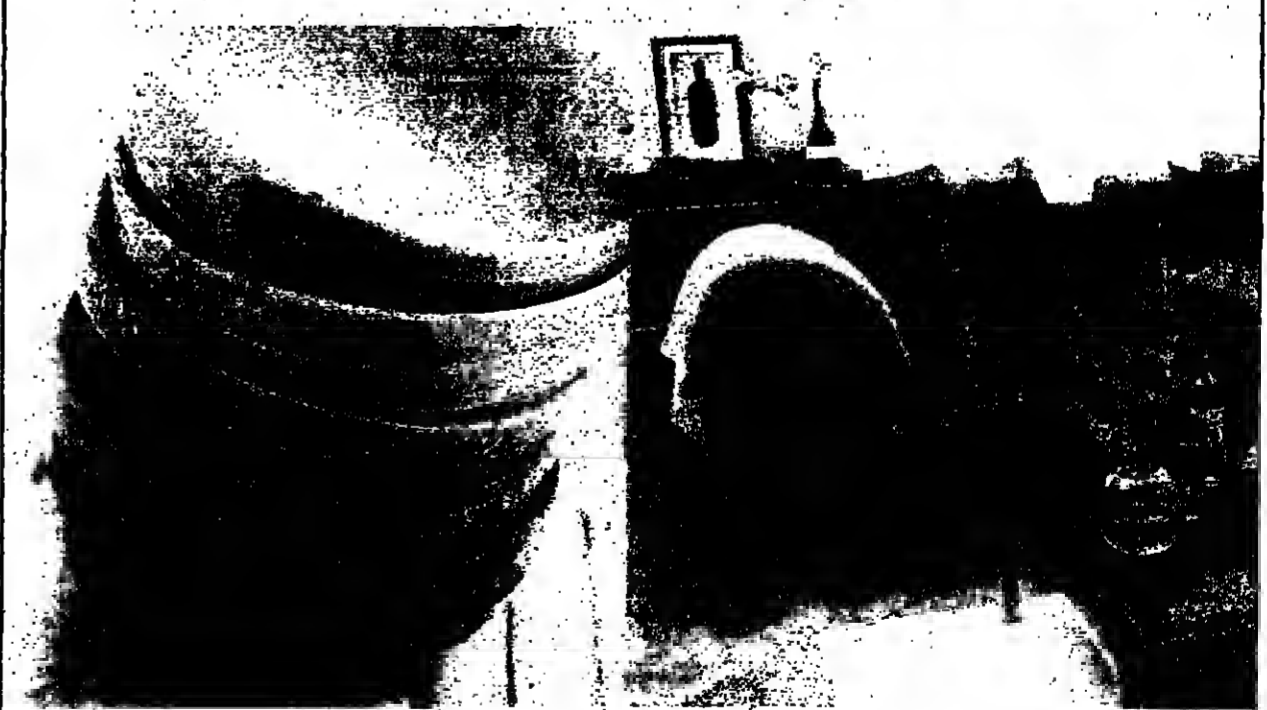
□ The 1998 World Press Photo award winners precipitate the viewer to the heart of many of the most important news events of the previous year. A few of the images are almost too disturbing to contemplate, but oth-

□ KNOWN for his commissions for the National Trust and the Prince of Wales, Hugh Buchanan appears less representational, more meditative in his new work. Computer-generated images, screenprinted on to board and then painted over, create strange hybrid scenes in which the ancient guards the gateway to the innovative. Behind the visionary images, Buchanan is posing serious questions about the nature of our architectural landscape and its legacy. Francis Kyle Gallery, 9 Maddox Street, London W1 (0171-499 6670) until Dec 3

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CHANGING TIMES

Speed thrills

ONE of the patron saints of the British guitar, John McLaughlin is as renowned for his fluent technique as for his catalogue of music. He has written and recorded in his own right, and is the leader of such pioneering groups as the Mahavishnu Orchestra and Shakti. At the Festival Hall he was accompanied by a muscular band named The World Court, after his concert venue. Gary Thomas and Omar Hakim's keyboards were to the fore, whether in the more energetic, more melodic passages with McLaughlin.

JAZZ

... as a rule of thumb, but it is not always so. In the case of the jazz section - which is a mix of jazz, funk, soul, and rock - the music is often more accessible than in the past. The music is often more accessible than in the past. The music is often more accessible than in the past.

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LISTINGS

Sir Cliff at the Albert Hall

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargreaves

LONDON

VIENNA PHILHARMONIC: The venerable Austrian orchestra makes a welcome visit under the baton of...
THE STORES: Susan Lynch, Meggie Stead and Tom Mannion star in a revival of Ostrovsky's 1869 drama...



Mariss Jansons conducts Strauss at the RFH

THE BEST OF TIMES: The beloved theatre's enjoyable programme of...
THE BACKROOMS: Soho Theatre Co's five playfests season continues with Adrian Pagan's look at...

ELSEWHERE
MANCHESTER: The veteran pianist Alfred Brendel brings his related touch to bear on a programme of...

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

- MY BOY: Tom Conti in John Dowd's short comedy giving Joseph's side of the Jesus story...
INTO THE WOODS: Sondheim's wonderfully nightmarish take on...

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies

- BLADE (R): Edemgamb, jumbled horror fantasy, fun for a time...
LEFT LUGGAGE (PG): Superficial and unbelievable drama about...

Fare idea of the city

TYPICAL: you wait ages for a site specific art event and then three come along together. That, and other poor bus-related jokes, are all you can expect...

Take a little love

At the entrance to the short dark tunnel that leads into this theatre a notice warns patrons: "This play contains language, behaviour and clothing which some may consider offensive..."

No way to stop the rot

Nor is Jean one to return the ball of chatter over the net. Sharon Swyer sits in her armchair with her legs in the classically ungainly posture of heels apart...



Ona McCracken, Nicola Redmond and Joanne Pearce as a Rollers-Royce frontline in Catherine Johnson's Shang-a-Lang

Take a little love

At the entrance to the short dark tunnel that leads into this theatre a notice warns patrons: "This play contains language, behaviour and clothing which some may consider offensive..."

warned against Joanne Pearce's gold finzel wig. She herself, last seen struggling against kinder fates in RSC productions of Cymbeline and Little Eyolf, quickly decides that here she has met her match...

THEATRE
Shang-a-Lang
Bush, W32
Lauren (Ona McCracken) who is anybody's for anything. They tangle themselves with the two musicians, a coarsely bitter Peter Jonfield and a coarsely enthusiastic Stephen Graham...

absorb of fellow-feeling, and it comes with far-reaching knowledge of street talk and the music scene (she is currently working with Bjorn and Benny on the Abba musical).

Half Moon

room vamp. Kathleen, and talks bitterly of renal failure. Andrew Neil's pompous Eric bores for the BBC, throws his hands about, and tries to palm off his pornography collection as art...

Half Moon

With his shoulder-length grey hair and world-weary ways, Ralph Watson's failed writer, Roy, holds wobbly superiority over his bohemian friends. He makes fumbling passes at Eileen Baty's bar-

Half Moon

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Half Moon

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Last chance saloon

YOU probably saw them in a pub in Fitzrovia last night. They are the seedy bunch of arty never-has-beens with a Homeric capacity to drink and far too much to say. They waffle nostalgically about the artist friend they have just buried. They polish their jaded egos, start drinking doubles, then argue about Scottish nationalism, ageing, the desire for sex, and their incapacity to perform it.

Half Moon

With his shoulder-length grey hair and world-weary ways, Ralph Watson's failed writer, Roy, holds wobbly superiority over his bohemian friends. He makes fumbling passes at Eileen Baty's bar-

Half Moon

room vamp. Kathleen, and talks bitterly of renal failure. Andrew Neil's pompous Eric bores for the BBC, throws his hands about, and tries to palm off his pornography collection as art...

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Headhunters should get busy...

Ms Bahl, 42, is already regarded as a breath of fresh air among solicitors.

But she is not the archetypal feminist. The model for Usha

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'I want to make lawyers' voices heard'

Kamlesh Bahl aims to be President of the Law Society by 2000. Interview by Frances Gibb

Kamlesh Bahl is still fuming over last week's pre-launch leak of her plans for a new, tough equality law. The leak — the suspect is an MP — took the edge off her swansong, the climax of two years' consultation and hard work.

That's what happens when you spin," Ms Bahl remarked wryly. "It couldn't have happened to nicer people."

Nonetheless, the package of reforms proposing a new super-equality law in place of existing outdated discrimination and equal pay laws is a fitting tribute to her five-year tenure at the helm of the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Ms Bahl, 42, is already regarded as a breath of fresh air among solicitors. Equal treatment is a passion, born of personal experience of discrimination. When she emerged with a 2.1 law degree from Birmingham University, she applied to 250 law firms for a job. All rejected her. Both her sex and her race — she is Kenyan Asian — counted against her.

Another high-profile woman in the justice system. Heather Hallett, QC, is pondering what she'll do when her time as Bar Council chief ends, admitting she is not relishing the prospect of going back to the grind of prosecuting and defence work in the criminal courts.

THE BAR COUNCIL has relaxed its advertising rules so chambers can now describe themselves as "leading" sets. The move follows this column's revelation in March that several sets, including the former chambers of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, at 11 King's Bench Walk, were breaching the rules by using

She is the model for the solicitor in The Archers

Gupta, the solicitor in The Archers, the Radio 4 soap opera, she admits to being variously called "a Conservative activist" and "a new Labour acolyte". So her politics, she says, are "a moveable feast".

The task then was a different one: she recalls the scorn poured over the commission five years ago, when its concerns were considered to be fringe or politically correct nonsense.

She is now very much mainstream — she was appointed CBE last year, although her background has always been Establishment (her uncle was Chief Justice in Kenya and her father, who brought the family to Britain in the 1960s, a civil servant).

Her approach has been pragmatic. No soundbite feminism, she makes statements that are authoritative — and founded on detailed research. She set about, for instance, assembling hard data to prove the business case for equality, to show that equal treatment pays; and that discrimination can be costly. "When I came, everyone said — but equal treatment costs money."

She has also sought to carry employers' organisations along with any plans for reform. As a result, the commission has won respect across



"We need a mature debate about ensuring equality for women is not at the expense of men"

the worker-boss divide. There have been landmark achievements, from the winning of employment rights for 80,000 part-time workers, equal pension rights for men and women, a code of practice on equal pay, proposals for childcare reform and the lifting of the limit on compensation in employment tribunals — a move that forced employers to realise they could not longer discriminate with impunity.

Now she says there must be a shift from using the law to fight discrimination to a positive promotion of equal treatment for men and women. Despite its image, the commission has always helped men (the unequal pensions age) and recently did research into why girls were so outstripping boys at school. But historically, discrimination has been

against women, she says. "We have used the weapon of the law to bring about a change in attitude. Now we must build on that, so that equal treatment is at the heart of what employers and the Government do. We need to have a mature debate about ensuring that equality for women is not at the expense of men and balancing home and work."

She and her husband (a sole practitioner, GP) have chosen not to have children; but despite a heavy diary of engagements and dinners, she is learning the harmonica with her husband and taking singing lessons. At work, she is turning her skills to the solicitors' profession. She wants to boost their image, talk to law firms and tackle government plans for legal aid contracts, which she fears will discriminate against many small (and ethnic minority) firms. Solicitors, she argues, play a crucial role as guardians of individuals' rights. "I want to make sure their voices are heard."

solicitors. Ms Fernandes is leading a campaign to persuade Lord Irvine to give ethnic minority solicitors more time to prepare for his legal aid reforms. Last week she held a meeting on the issue which was attended by more than 200 solicitors.

PAUL BOATENG is back. The legal profession breathed a collective sigh of relief when the fiery MP, who was Labour's legal affairs spokesman in opposition, became a Health Minister after the general election. But it wasn't counting on the Ron Davies affair. Mr Boateng, who threatened to refer the profession to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and force solicitors to do pro bono work, has replaced Alun Michael, the new Welsh Secretary, at the Home Office. Last week the Home Office said its new minister had been given special responsibility for criminal justice policy, a move that will do nothing to ease tension between the Lord Chancellor's Department and the Home Office over who should set the legal agenda.

Does it matter if 247 judges are Masons?

In 1889 Lord Justice Bowen suggested in a Court of Appeal judgment that "judges, like Caesar's wife, should be above suspicion". But even judges have human rights, one of which is protection against unjustifiable invasions of privacy. The Government's decision that they should declare whether they are Freemasons is impossible to justify, and may become unlawful once the Human Rights Act is implemented.

In March 1997 the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee recommended that judges, magistrates, Crown prosecutors and police officers be required to register Masonic membership in a form accessible to the public, even though it found no evidence of Masonic corruption or malign influence on judicial proceedings. Its concern related to public perception that Freemasonry is a secret society, leading to "wild, unjustified allegations of abuse".

After a battle between Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, who wanted to implement an obligation of disclosure by the judiciary, and the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, who did not, the Government in February declared that all judges and magistrates would be asked voluntarily to declare whether they are Freemasons. Mr Straw added that, in future, such a declaration would be a condition of appointment to such offices.

In faithful implementation of this policy, Lord Irvine wrote at the end of July to more than 5,000 judges, asking them voluntarily to declare (for the purposes of a public register) whether they are Freemasons. The Lord Chancellor's Department has now announced that 247 judges have admitted to being Freemasons, and 64 have declined to answer.

At the end of October, Lord Saville of Newdigate, a law lord, expressed publicly an opinion voiced privately by most judges: the policy is an unjustified invasion of privacy that serves only to undermine public confidence in the independence of the judiciary. That is the view of the limited number of judges who are Freemasons. But it is also the opinion of those of us, including Lord Saville, who have no interest in spending our evenings practising peculiar handshakes.

Requiring new judges to state whether they are Freemasons, and encourag-

ing existing judges to do so, is undoubtedly an invasion of privacy. Personal privacy is essential to our autonomy as human beings, whatever job we do. The Lord Chancellor would not normally expect candidates for judicial office to tell the public about their religious beliefs, political views or sexual preferences as the price of appointment to the Bench. It is, in general, a matter for me (and my family) whether I spend my leisure hours in the golf club, the Garrick Club or Arsenal Football Club.

On occasions, as Milton wrote, when "to the public good, private respects must yield". But what public good can justify the invasion of privacy? The Home Secretary's reasoning is that "membership of secret societies can raise suspicions of a lack of impartiality or objectivity". But this is to pander to ill-informed prejudice. If, as the select committee found after exhaustive inquiries, there is no evidence of improper Masonic influences on judicial decisions, members of the public should be reassured that there is no reason for concern.

It is perverse falsely to imply to the supposedly concerned public that there is a problem about Freemasons that needs exceptional measures not taken in relation to any other activity. The public should simply be told that our judges have a variety of private interests, there is no reason to doubt that they put such interests aside when judging cases, and they are selected for appointment precisely because they are able to adjudicate in an independent manner.

It is hard to understand how a register will reassure members of the public suffering from ill-informed concern. To suggest that they should be comforted by the fact that only 247 judges admit to being Freemasons would wrongly imply that there is something so dishonourable about being a Freemason that a larger judicial membership would be troubling.

The Government's policy is hard to reconcile with the guarantee in the European Convention on Human Rights that privacy must be protected against unjustifiable interference. It would be ironic indeed if, when the Human Rights Act is implemented, one of the first successful cases were brought by the judiciary.

The author, a practising barrister and Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, sits as a part-time judge.



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Legal DIARY

Headhunters should get busy. Dame Barbara Mills, QC, former Director of Public Prosecutions, is still looking for a new job. And she has even signed on for a computer course: "I'm going to be online, on message, on everything."

QUEEN'S COUNSEL

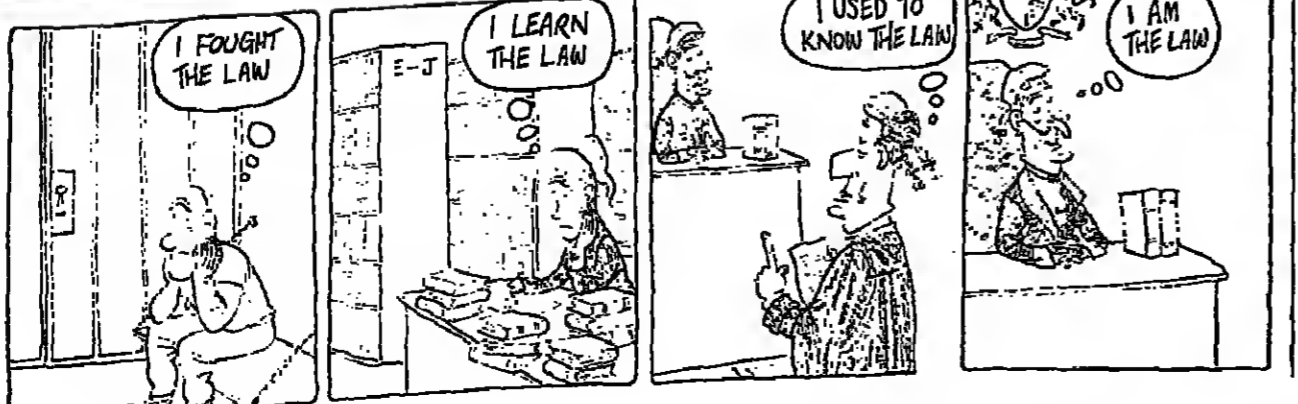
the term "leading" on their websites. The absurd code-of-conduct ban on barristers making statements about the quality of their work and the size or success of their practice has now been lifted, although barristers are still not allowed to comment on their individual success rate.

A NEW political/legal husband-and-wife team has emerged in the mould of Henry Hodge and his MP wife Margaret, and Tony Blair and Cherie Booth, QC. The new kids on the block are the MP Keith Vaz, now parliamentary private secretary to the government law officers, and his wife Maria Fernandes. Mr Vaz has been in the political limelight for many years. His wife, who specialises in immigration law, is now making her mark at the Law Society. Recently appointed as the Council member for ethnic minority

solicitors. Ms Fernandes is leading a campaign to persuade Lord Irvine to give ethnic minority solicitors more time to prepare for his legal aid reforms. Last week she held a meeting on the issue which was attended by more than 200 solicitors.

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Closing date for receipt of applications is by noon on 7 December.

Recruitment Services, Executive Search & Selection, Southwark Towers, 32 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9SY. Fax: 0171 379 8647. Email: james.greenacre@wll.co.uk



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Required to support the increased volume of the group's core business activity. The work involves advising on the implications for group companies and their products of the law relating to life insurance, pensions, investments and financial services. Working independently or as part of a team, you will monitor the regulations in these areas and ensure the legal consequences of changes are implemented. You will have the opportunity to contribute in a legal capacity to the development of group business including the design and marketing of the group's products.

A knowledge of life insurance/financial services law would be an advantage, but is not essential. A keen interest and a genuine commitment to developing in this sector are most important.

Commercial Lawyer NQ - 3 years' PQE

Required to handle an interesting cross section of commercial work. The work involves providing legal support for company restructurings, European business, purchasing procedures, contractual relations with third parties, joint ventures, legislative and technological changes etc. Working independently or as part of a team, you will handle a range of legal issues arising from a variety of corporate projects, as well as drafting commercial agreements and appropriate legal documentation.

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Alternatively write with full CV and current salary details, clearly indicating the position you are interested in and quoting the reference 9004 to: The Recruitment Team, Human Resources, CGU Life, Six Hills Way, Stevenage SG1 2ST. If you wish to fax your CV, our confidential fax number is 01904 452696.

CGU Life operates a no smoking policy. Closing date: Friday, 27th November 1998.



Deputy Head of Legal

Surrey

As part of a truly global IT service provider, Origin UK provides business consultancy on, and implementation of, a full range of IT services to support the business needs of national and multi-national organisations in selected industry sectors.

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Mr John Swift QC

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BOWLS

England caught in fixture muddle

By DAVID RHYS JONES

THE scheduling of a big outdoor event during the British indoor season has caused problems for the organisers of the women's home international indoor series, which will be staged in Belfast from March 16 to 18 next year.

The announcement yesterday of the England team to play in the Atlantic Rim Games outdoors in Cape Town from March 20 to 28 revealed that five key players — Catherine Anton, Jean Baker, Katherine Hawes, Mary Price and Norzma Shaw — will be missing from the team to contest the annual series in Northern Ireland. Baker has been given the singles berth, ahead of Price.

Nancy Colling, the secretary of England's outdoor association and the immediate past president of the International Women's Bowling Board, was quick to point out that the players will have a choice. If they prefer to go to Belfast, a further selector will have to be made.

Hilary King, the Welsh indoor secretary, claims that the Wales indoor side will be deprived of three of their skips as well as one of their best leads and said: "No one told us that this outdoor event would be played at the height of the indoor season."

"It would have been nice if we had been kept informed, but there was no consultation. The whole thing is bitterly disappointing."

Wales are the holders of the Atlantic Rim title, having triumphed at home in Llandrindod Wells last year, and it is understandable that they have picked a strong side in a bid to hold on to the No 1 spot.

ENGLAND: Singles: J Baker (Dorchester), Paine: K Hames (Dorset) and M Price (Buckinghamshire), Triples: Hanna, C Anton (Huntingdonshire), N Shaw (Durham), Fourth: Hawes, Anton, Price, Shaw, Manager: N May (Cornwall)

WALES: Singles: B Morgan (Llandrindod Wells), Paine: A Southland (Croydon), Triples: R Jones (Black Brackish), Triples: K Pearce (Barrow), J Watson (Telford), Fourth: Morgan, Pearce, Southland, Pearce, Watson, Jones, Manager: G M Rice (Suffolk)

Ferrier in a class of his own

Matthew Pryor reports on a schoolboy on his way to the top

Tom Ferrier dreams of becoming the Formula One world champion. Like the young drivers he competes against, he craves the fame, wealth and, most of all, winning and being the best driver in the world. Ferrier is only 16, but he is heading very much in the right direction.

"I'd love to make it to Formula One," he said. "I want to be on the starting grid at Silverstone in five or six years." Yet these are not idle dreams. He has attracted much attention already from senior figures in motor racing. Creighton Brown, the co-founder of McLaren International in 1980 and the man who brought Ayrton Senna to McLaren, is among those who say that Ferrier has phenomenal talent.

"I have watched many young drivers, including more than one who eventually became a Formula One champion, with precisely the same attributes I now see in Tom," Brown said. "When you see someone like Tom, you know he's got it. He's very, very good."

Ferrier, who lives with his parents in Bletchingly, north of Gatwick, does not come from a motor-racing family. His father, Nigel, is a successful marketing man and his mother, Sheila, is a secretary in a local private school.

His obsession with the sport began at his 10th birthday party, when he and a group of friends were treated to a trip to a kart track in Weybridge. Tom was immediately hooked.

Not that his school work has since suffered. He missed only two days of schooling last year and passed ten GCSEs at Oxford County School, where he is now studying an advanced GNVQ in Business Studies. However, this year, with international commitments in his Formula



Ferrier with his car at Donington. He became hooked on motor sport after a trip to a kart track on his birthday

A Karting event and Formula Opel testing, he will be away from school more often.

Ferrier's headmaster is understanding, but his mother is not. She keeps his feet on the ground. "My mum decides where the cut-off point is between schoolwork and racing," Ferrier said.

Motor racing is not a poor man's pursuit. Ferrier Sr estimates his son's annual karting budget to be £30,000. A season in Formula Opel costs £150,000. The sport does not become profitable until you reach Formula One.

Ferrier has wasted little time making his mark. At 14, at Silverstone, he broke the

most to guide the youngster, having employed Rubens Barrichello in the team as a 17-year-old when he first came over from Brazil.

"If I didn't think he was capable, he wouldn't be in my car," Costa said. "He has made a fantastic start and fitted in perfectly with the team."

If confirmation of his burgeoning talent were needed, Ferrier recently won a Vauxhall Scholarship. He was chosen ahead of 100 young drivers by a panel of judges composed of motor-racing drivers.

His reward is a free race in the Vauxhall Junior Winter Series. He has also lived up

to Costa's high expectations by breaking into the top ten in the second Formula Opel race of the winter season at Hockenheim.

Ferrier is philosophical about what his advances mean. "I'm here to learn," he said. "It is hard realising you can't win because the people I'm up against are so much more experienced, but things are going well — every session I go out and seem to go faster."

Looking every inch the young professional, Ferrier stands in the pits at Donington. Costa and the engineers crack a now familiar joke. They point to a sign "Warning — the pits and pitlane are areas of potential danger. Children under the age of 16 years should not be allowed in these areas."

A quietly confident Tom Ferrier just smiles.

ICE SKATING

Main must jump over extra hurdle

By ANGELA COURT

UNTIL the past couple of seasons, a national title almost certainly guaranteed a skater a place in the next European and world championships, but with the sport evolving rapidly and potential sponsors often needing strong results at international level to justify involvement, that is no longer the case.

Stephanie Main, who won her third British women's championship at Milton Keynes last Saturday, is yet to be named for the one place available to Great Britain in both championships. Instead, the National Ice Skating Association (NISA) will hold a screening session next month for Main, along with Tammy Sear and Zoe Jones, the second and third-placed skaters at the national championships, and will make four different triple jumps the criteria for selection.

The association did not send a woman to the European or world championships last year and is trying to raise standards by insisting that triple jumps must be performed.

Kevin Bursey, the NISA national performance director, admits the decision may not be popular, but insists it is the way forward. "Our women have to be able to do triple jumps," he said. "There's little point in sending people to top championships who are lovely skaters but cannot jump."

Main, 22, landed two triple jumps during her free programme on Saturday. Afterwards, she admitted that she had another triple planned, but reduced it to a double, adding that in practice she has been pulling off five.

programme yet," she said. "but I'm confident I can do them in the future."

There are two places available for men at both events and Clive Shorten, the new champion, has been named as one representative. Neil Wilson, champion in 1996, who was forced to withdraw last week because of a leg injury, will be screened to check on his progress.

The pairs selection is also on hold. Marsha Poluniaschenko and Andrew Seabrook won their second title last Friday, but not without making several mistakes in the process. NISA officials want to wait and see how they perform at



Main: kept in suspense

the world junior championships in Zagreb next week before making a decision.

Charlotte Clements and Gary Shortland, the Slough-based ice dance champions, have no worries. They have been named for both events and will be looking to improve on their placing last year, when they made their debut at this level.

One event where Britain will have a full team is in Zagreb. The latest addition is Jennifer Holmes, 14, from Murrayfield, who finished a promising fourth in the senior women's event at Milton Keynes.

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FOOTBALL

Hendrie is unruffled by elevation to the top

By Matt Dickinson

SPORT can be a fickle profession... Hendrie is unruffled by elevation to the top... He has become a key player in the Aston Villa side...



Hendrie, left, who has become a key player in the Aston Villa side, shares a joke with his England colleagues yesterday. Photograph: Gill Allen

West Ham lead the field in pursuit of Holligan

By Russell Kempson

WEST Ham United are close to signing Gavin Holligan, 18, the Kingstonian striker... He has scored 12 goals in 13 appearances this season...

Cove provide some nourishing fare

With standards rising again in the Highland League, Walter Gammie reports on clubs' long-term hopes

The man slipping through a side door at Allan Park with a tray of meat pies... The struggle with the electricians...

Bonnyman inspired a rip-roaring run last season to make it five... The Highland League was formed in Inverness in 1893...

HIGHLAND LEAGUE

Table with 5 columns: Club, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists teams like Cove Rangers, Peterhead, etc.

BADMINTON: WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPION TESTS POSITIVE FOR STEROIDS

Sigit suspended and fined over drugs

BUDIARTO SIGIT, one of the game's leading players, has been suspended for 13 months and fined more than \$12,000... Candra Wijaya, his playing partner...

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

Multiple columns of legal notices, including public notices, legal notices, trustee acts, and international lottery notices.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE advertisement by Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent.

Bridge hand analysis showing dealer West, E-W game, and IMPs. Includes a card layout diagram.

Bridge hand analysis continuing with declarer's best chance and analysis of the play.

WORD-WATCHING section by Philip Howard with a list of words and definitions.

KEENE on CHESS advertisement by Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent.

Chess analysis section titled 'New gambit' discussing a new chess strategy.

Chess analysis section titled 'White resigns' discussing a game between Peter Leko and Michael Adams.

WINNING MOVE section by Raymond Keene with a chessboard diagram and a winning move.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, including 'McCo to exam', 'NEWTON ABB...', and 'TITANI FOR J...'.

Handwritten Arabic text: 'مكتبة من الأصيل'

RACING: ENFORCED BREAK OFFERS CHAMPION JOCKEY OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS WHIP PROBLEM

McCoy given chance to examine technique

AN 18-DAY suspension for Tony McCoy, until now the most impressive National Hunt champion in living memory, yesterday sharpened the horns of racing's most awkward dilemma: is the whip a vital tool of the trade, or a spanner in the works of its image and future prosperity? How ironic that an instrument designed to assist equilibrium and momentum should have so contrasting an effect on the sport, which has rarely conducted its great debate with such acerbity.



McCoy's all-action riding style has won both admirers and enemies

THUNDERER
1.00 RED EBRELE (nap), 1.30 Collier Bay, 2.00 Robert's Toy, 2.30 Mister Blake, 3.00 Native Fling, 3.30 The Hatcher, 4.00 Molly Fitz Lad.

GOING: SOFT
1.00 WISHFUL THINKING SELLING HURDLE (E1,786; 2m 10) (9 runners)
1-3 SP SPRINT UP 19 (B.O.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy 202

1.30 MOLESWORTH ARMS HOTEL WADEBRIDGE NOVICES CHASE (E2,081; 2m 110yd) (4)
1-2-3 COLLIER BAY 12 (B.O.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy 202

2.00 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (E2,738; 2m 60) (5)
1-2-3 NAME OF OUR FATHER 32 (B.O.) P Brown 5-12-10 M Winton 117

2.30 CLAUDE WHITLEY MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (E3,388; 3m 21 110yd) (8)
1-2-3 WELLS TOWER 10 (B.O.S.) R Free 8-12-9 ... J Frost 111

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Table with columns for race name, time, and results. Includes sections for Leicester, Plumpton, and Wolverhampton.

made of, it is bound to be noticeable if used incorrectly. There is too much close-up television these days to allow flamboyant whip styles and we must instruct riders to kick and push, and to use their sticks only as a last resort. Nowadays it seems the jockey goes for the whip as soon as the horse comes off the bit.

3.00 DEVON NOVICES HURDLE (E2,201; 2m 10) (5)
1-2-3 NATURAL 11 (B.O.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy 202

3.30 SOUTH WEST RACING CLUB NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (E3,134; 2m 51 110yd) (12)
1-2-3 PEARL'S CHOICE 172 (B.S.) J Macdonald 10-11-10 S Mitchell 85

4.00 BOUNDRIES INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (E1,236; 2m 10) (10)
1-2-3 BEAL 107 (B.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy 202

MARTIN PIPE, who saddled Cyfor Malta to win the Murphy's Gold Cup three days ago, relies on Northern Starlight in the £45,000-added First National Bank Gold Cup Chase at Ascot on Saturday.

12.20 ROYAL ROUTE, 12.50 MY MOTHER'S DREAM, 1.20 REDOUBLE, 1.50 MISTER RAISER, 2.20 SILVER SUN, 2.50 EHAHUB, 3.20 TOPTON, 3.50 MISTER JAKE.

12.20 PARTIES IN THE PAVILION AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (E1,737; 1m 40) (18 runners)
1-2-3 FAIR 12 (B.O.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy 202

12.50 CHRISTMAS RACE NIGHTS SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O; E1,737; 7) (10)
1-2-3 CESAR WELLS 26 (B.O.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy 202

1.20 GET YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP NOW NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O; E2,828; 1m) (10)
1-2-3 ACHILLES STAR 10 (B.O.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy 202

1.50 CONTACT SALES & MARKETING HANDICAP (E2,085; 50) (10)
1-2-3 YOUNG BHR 3 (B.O.) P Free 8-12-9 ... J Frost 111

RICHARD EVANS
Nap: RANDOM HARVEST (3.10 Wetherby)
New best: Gigi Beach (2.30 Newton Abbot)

2.20 POLYGRAM CLASSICS MAIDEN STAKES (Div 1; 3-Y-O; E2,437; 1m 20) (10)
1-2-3 BELTSHAZAR 48 (B.O.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy 202

2.50 POLYGRAM CLASSICS MAIDEN STAKES (Div 1; 3-Y-O; E2,424; 1m 20) (10)
1-2-3 ABBOTT 18 (B.O.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy 202

3.20 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (Div 1; E2,476; 7) (12)
1-2-3 CESAR WELLS 26 (B.O.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy 202

3.50 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (Div 1; E2,476; 7) (11)
1-2-3 BE MY WISH 5 (B.O.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy 202

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THUNDERER
1.10 Slip Venture 2.40 Tom Brodie
1.40 Paddy's Return 3.10 Organ Reolth
2.10 Diddy Ryder 3.40 Lord Lamb

1.10 HENDERSON INSURANCE BROKERS LTD. JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O; E2,945; 2m) (10 runners)
1-2-3 DANAGER 20 (B.O.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy 202

1.40 COOLMORE STUD NOVICES CHASE (E3,444; 3m 10) (6 runners)
1-2-3 MASTER WOOD 17 (B.O.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy 202

2.10 SPINAL RESEARCH TRUST CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (E2,408; 2m 41 110yd) (11 runners)
1-2-3 CANTON VENTURE 42 (B.O.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy 202

2.40 WINTERSHIRE MOBILE PHONES HANDICAP CHASE (E2,950; 2m) (5 runners)
1-2-3 CLAREMONT CHALLENGE 17 (B.O.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy 202

3.10 PETER BEAUMONT OWNERS HANDICAP CHASE [SHOWCASE] (E3,556; 3m 10) (8 runners)
1-2-3 RANDOM HARVEST 18 (B.O.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy 202

3.40 FRENCH BALLERINA NOVICES HURDLE [TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (E3,281; 2m) (19 runners)
1-2-3 REVERSE CHARGE 115 (B.O.S.) M Pige 4-11-5 ... A P McCoy 202

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CRICKET

Croft and Mullally combine to snatch win

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN CAIRNS

CAIRNS (final day of four): England XI beat Queensland by one wicket

THE benefits of winning a match of this nature can never be properly measured, but for the sake of unity, confidence and generally feeling good before the start of a Test series, it is a whole lot better than losing - especially when the victory reeks of a cussedness of spirit that it is fashionable, in these parts, to consider exclusively Australian.

England might easily have lost all four of their warm-up fixtures, but instead they remain unbeaten, having stolen this game through an implausibly prolonged last-wicket partnership between Robert Croft and Alan Mullally.

It would be a deception to report that England flew down the Queensland coastline to Brisbane light of heart and free of cares. No matter the drama and daring of this win, the problems at the other end of their batting order are causing deep concern.

Their opening batsmen mustered three runs between them here and Michael Atherton's appointment with a back specialist today was weighing heavily on minds other than his own. Yet both Atherton and Mark Butcher, his tolling partner, joined freely in the

moments of team bonding that followed a quite remarkable match.

Atherton, still optimistic of being fit for the first Test on Friday but resigned to accepting medical advice, calmly put the event into context. "You always want to win," he said, "but pitch conditions here are very different from what we will expect in Brisbane, so I wouldn't read too much into it."

The conditions to which England have acclimatised well, however, are the Queensland heat and humidity, so challenging here that normal dress standards are unenforceable. "We are usually chilling in Hobart before the first Test out here, so this will have done us a lot of good," Atherton said.

Although unable to field on Sunday, he was pressed into service yesterday, as always seemed unavoidable, when England resumed needing 68 runs from their remaining five wickets on a pitch now resembling crazy paving.

When Mark Ramprakash became the latest of many to be out misjudging a pull, Atherton emerged from the players' tent at a brisk pace that suggested he had a point to prove. However, he did not bat very long or very well and, after surviving confident ap-



Croft hits out during his last-wicket stand with Mullally that brought England victory over Queensland. Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

peals to each of his first two balls, he was out to the seventh, shuffling down the pitch to the spin of Jackson and giving Healy a straightforward stumping. Dean Headley, who had played some combative strokes in making 20, was eventually too late coming down on a good-length ball from the waspish Michael Kasprovicz, whose second-innings performance had ensured his presence in the Australia Test squad. Kasprovicz quickly cleaned up Darren Gough for his sixth wicket to leave England 106 for nine.

With 36 runs required, a size of partnership achieved only four times in the game, the odds against England were so long that the scoreboard operators did not even bother putting up Mullally's name. His space remained blank for the 78 minutes it took Croft and himself to confound logic. For almost an hour, they undertook nothing but reconnaissance. While ten runs were scored from 14 overs, there was a sense of merely delaying the inevitable. Then Andy Bichel dropped a ball short and Mullally pulled with relief, the four taking the total to 120 and bringing a rousing chorus of cheers from the England tent.

Lunch, an interval that had seemed unlikely to be necessary, was taken with 4 still needed, an assignment completing with the minimum of fuss. Mullally, a character of whom stress is a stranger, was a revelation, pulling and driving with admirable control, but it was Croft who took the winning single off Kasprovicz and punched the air in delight. For Croft, whose technique was exposed by Glenn McGrath in England in 1997, every such innings is a minor personal triumph, but he was keen to stress its value to the team. "Look at the last Ashes series," he said. "There wasn't much between the two top sixes in terms of runs, but there was probably 300 or so difference between their bottom five and ours."

Mullally, who is patently enjoying every moment of this tour after a summer with unbeaten Leicestershire, said: "I badly wanted to win this. I haven't been on the losing side in a first-class game for a long time and I don't intend to start now. If the last three or four batsmen can each make 20 or so, it will turn games."

Croft spoke passionately of the work that he has put in with Graham Gooch over the past year to eliminate his soft dismissals against the short ball. He spoke, too, of his hope that the selectors will decide that a spin bowler is essential in Brisbane, a thorny issue that even his tenacity with the bat here cannot have resolved.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for Queensland and England scores, batsmen, and bowlers. Queensland: 209 (1st Innings), 124 (2nd Innings). England: 192 (1st Innings), 152 (2nd Innings).

Hooper's century puts West Indies in command

By Our Sports Staff

CARL HOOPER quickly followed the example of Brian Lara, his captain, by scoring a century for West Indies against Griqualand West in Kimberley yesterday to put his team in a commanding position at the end of the third day's play.

After Lara had made 101 on Sunday, Hooper scored 109 as the West Indies, resuming on 327 for six, scored 466 to give them a first-innings lead of 195 runs. Griqualand West ended the day on 123 for five in their second innings, still 72 runs short of avoiding an innings defeat.

Hooper, who did not give a chance throughout his innings, reached his century off 166 balls before he was finally out when he hooked Adri Swanepoel, the left-arm seam bowler, to fine leg. Hooper hit 11 fours and a six.

Only Micky Arthur, the Griqualand West captain, who scored 46, and Pieter Barnard, who was unbeaten with 42, contained a West Indies bowling attack that was missing Courtney Walsh and Curtley Ambrose, the fast bowlers. Walsh sprained his left ankle on Saturday, although West Indies officials said that the injury was minor. Ambrose was also unable to bowl after having a toenail removed on Saturday. He bowled in the nets yesterday and is expected to play in his first match of the tour against Orange Free State in a four-day game that starts in Bloemfontein on Friday.

Arthur and Barnard steadied the innings after the West Indies bowlers had enjoyed some early successes. Their partnership ended when Barnard failed to respond to Arthur's call and Arthur was run out by Stuart Williams.

Lara and Hooper were at the centre of a pay dispute earlier this month, which delayed the start of the tour. A compromise was eventually reached after a row between officials and players over four fees.



Hooper: made century

THE TIMES RUGBY Wales faith Wembley nearly

TEAMS

Wales: ... Wembley: ...

Wales: ... Wembley: ...

Wales: ... Wembley: ...

Wales: ... Wembley: ...

Wales: ... Wembley: ...

Wales: ... Wembley: ...

Gillespie earns Test recall

FROM ALAN LEE



Gillespie: quality control

JASON GILLESPIE'S most recent Test match appearance was made 15 months ago in Nottingham, a dramatic week in which the Ashes were settled and Michael Atherton's resignation as England captain was refused. Three injuries and much frustration later, Gillespie was recalled yesterday to share the new ball with Glenn McGrath in the first Test starting in Brisbane on Friday.

The Australia selectors might have opted for any of several alternatives, none more compelling than Paul Reffel, whose dependability is so respected by England. Instead, they have ignored the doubts about Gillespie's match-fitness and backed his undoubted qualities of pace and control, which were so evident in the South Australia match against England last week.

Trevor Hohns, the chairman of selectors, emerged from a telephone conference with his two colleagues, Allan Border and Andrew Hilditch, to name him as the most contentious member of a party of 12. Damien Fleming, who is carrying a slight back injury, and Michael Kasprovicz will contest the third seam bowling place, with Stuart MacGill continuing as leg-spin understudy for Shane Warne. Ricky Ponting will bat at No 6 in preference to Darren Lehmann.

Warne looks to be some way off a Test recall after shoulder surgery, finishing with disappointing match figures of one for 74 on his first-class comeback for Victoria.

AUSTRALIA (from): M A Taylor (captain), M J Slater, E J Langer, R T Ponting, M E Waugh, S H Waugh, D W Fleming, J N Gillespie, I A Healy (wicketkeeper), M S Kasprovicz, S C O'Malley, G O McGovern

Perils of playing strain game

By Dr Thomas Stuttford

ATHERTON'S back, like that of Graham Thorpe and Alec Stewart, is as vulnerable as that of thousands of other cricketers, whether playing at Lord's or on the village green. When it flexes, the spine does not rely upon an individual hinge joint, like a knee, and therefore bends and twists only within a limited range. Pushing it beyond its natural capabilities sets up unsustainable stresses. Something has to give and it is usually the disc between the spinal bones.

When humans evolved to stand upright, all sorts of activities became possible. We could make weapons and tools, hunt - and play cricket. The eyes, hands and spine adapted to the new status, although the spine remained a vulnerable link in the new order. This potential

weakness is particularly apparent during pregnancy, when lifting and when playing cricket and golf. The spine is especially at risk from awkward twisting and striking movements in either sport. Bowlers, too, have trouble. The pounding each of the individual joints of the spine receives as the leading foot hits the ground sends shock waves through them that may damage the discs or, over the years, cause osteoarthritis of the joint surfaces.

The MRI scanner has revealed the truth about backs. Until the introduction of this advanced diagnostic tool, which enables soft-tissue damage, including disc injuries, to be seen, a myriad unlikely diagnoses were provided to account for backache. Usually,

this is the result of harm to a disc so that it protrudes because of herniation of the nucleus of the disc through the tough outer fibres. It is notable that Thorpe, who has had surgery for proven disc problems, and Atherton, who has had disc troubles since being at Cambridge, both are aware of the underlying condition of their spine. Stewart's pains have been attributed to muscle spasms. Muscles always go into spasm when a prolapsed disc touches a nerve. Muscle spasm may therefore be secondary to the damaged disc.

Atherton will probably find that, over the years, unless he has surgery, a lesser degree of trauma caused by over-exertion will "put his back out", but the symptoms will subside more quickly. He will be playing again before long.



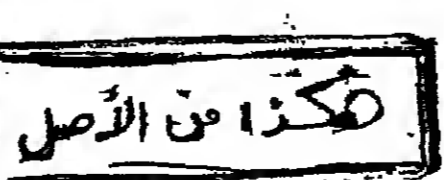
Hooper: made century

Table titled 'INTEREST RATES WITH EFFECT FROM 17TH NOVEMBER 1998'. It lists various account types (Investment, Savings, Current, etc.) and their corresponding interest rates for different deposit amounts.

Table titled 'TODAY'S FIXTURES'. It lists various sports events including Football, Basketball, and Rugby, along with the teams involved and the time of the match.

BASKETBALL Giants pin hopes on fit Perry By NICHOLAS HARLING The fitness of Makebe Perry could have a big influence on the outcome of the most intriguing quarter-final tomorrow when Thames Valley Tigers attempt to prolong the defence of their Sainsbury's Classic Cola National Cup.

SPORT IN BRIEF French announce new anti-doping measures CYCLING: French administrators have stepped up the battle against drugs by announcing that 500 of the country's riders will be tested next year. Daniel Baal, the chairman of the French Cycling Federation, said tests will be carried out throughout the year on both professionals and amateurs.

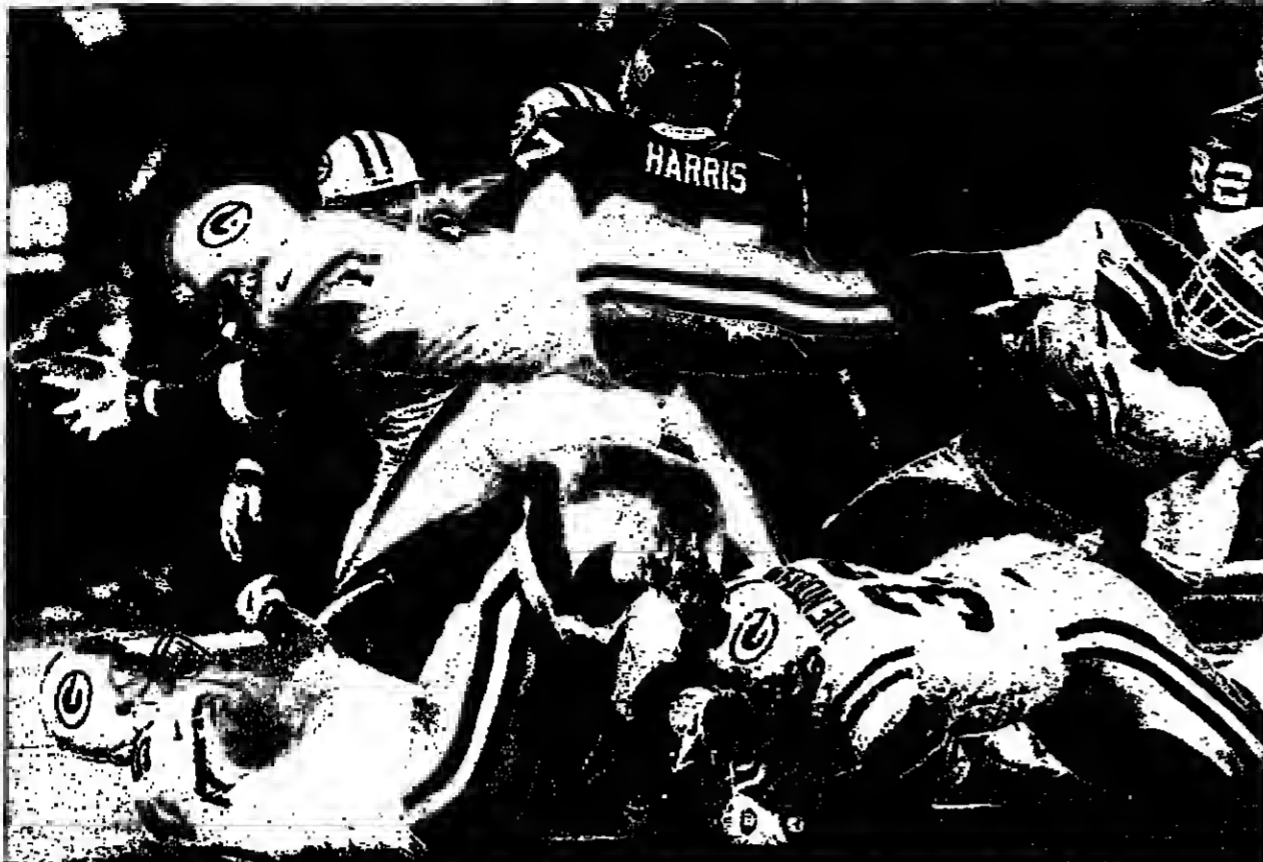


AMERICAN FOOTBALL: UNFANCIED ATLANTA SEND TREMOR THROUGH SAN FRANCISCO

Falcons soar to new heights

By Oliver Holt

DAN REEVES, the Atlanta Falcons coach, had told his players that they would remain second-class citizens of the National Football League (NFL) until they could beat their more celebrated divisional rivals, the San Francisco 49ers. On Sunday, the Falcons duly recorded the victory that confirmed they had left Sid Row behind. Atlanta's convincing 31-19 win over the 49ers in the rarefied atmosphere of the Georgia Dome emphasised the latest shifts in the ever-changing topography of the NFL in general and the National Football Conference (NFC) in particular. The drafting and merchandising system is designed to promote equity and the success of teams like the Falcons this season is proof of how well it can work. Just as the Minnesota Vikings have surprised everybody by taking the NFC Central division by storm, even beating the Green Bay Packers in the process, so the Falcons have upset the established order in the Western division. The 49ers have won 13 of the past 17 NFC West titles, but their defeat by the Falcons on Sunday meant that they slipped to second place in the table for the first time this season. One game back from their opponents and staring at the possibility of having to qualify for the play-offs through one of the wild-card spots. Steve Young, the increasingly world-weary San Francisco quarterback, was sacked four times by the Falcons defense, one of which led to a fumble and an Atlanta touchdown. "They capitalised on that



Darrik Holmes, the Green Bay Packers running back, dives into the end zone for a touchdown against the New York Giants

turnover." Steve Mariucci, the San Francisco coach, said: "We have a team that can come back from a deficit, but we need to stop putting ourselves in a position where we are playing catch-up all the time." Even though Young managed to orchestrate a fourth quarter rally, Atlanta sealed the match when Chris Chandler, their quarterback, threw a pass to Terance Mathis, the wide receiver, who escaped the attentions of R.W. McQuarters, the 49ers cornerback, to complete the touchdown. Reeves, who took the Denver Broncos to three Super Bowl appearances and coached the New York Giants before moving to Atlanta, has another winning side on his hands. "I'm really proud of our team," he said. "It was exciting having a sell-out crowd in here today. The difference between winning and losing in this league can be so small and the supporters made the difference." With the Denver Broncos idle, the Vikings improved their record to 9-1 when they crushed the Cincinnati Bengals 24-3. The biggest surprise of the weekend was the Indianapolis Colts' win over the New York Jets, but the best individual performance came in the Dallas Cowboys' 35-28 victory over the Arizona Cardinals. Jake Plummer, the Cardinals quarterback, threw for 465 yards and three touchdowns, but was still overshadowed by Emmitt Smith, the Dallas running back. Smith scored three touchdowns to move ahead of two of the greatest names in the sport, Jim Brown and Walter Payton, into third place in all-time touchdowns list. He now has 127.

TENNIS: RESURGENT GRAF SEEKS GARDEN PARTY WITH THIRD SUCCESSIVE TITLE

Hingis thinks big in chase to the finish

THE holidays are just one week away and the egos and the injuries have rolled into town for the Chase Championships, the end-of-term jamboree that sorts out the best from the rest. With \$2 million (about £1.2 million) in prize-money and nearly double the usual ranking points available, there is much at stake for the top 16 women in the world, but if it all goes horribly wrong, there is always the consolation of the annual vacation starting a few days early. The egos may be large, but so are the rewards, and somehow losing does not seem to hurt so much at Madison Square Garden. Lindsay Davenport knows that she has only to win her first-round match tomorrow, against Sandrine Testud, for her to finish the year as world No 1. Even if she falters, Mar-

fina Hingis, the No 2, has an awful lot of work to do to overtake her. Should Davenport lose, Hingis must win the title, beating Mary Pierce, Arantxa Sánchez Vicario and Jana Novotná to gain maximum bonus points. This year, Hingis has struggled with the players she describes as "the big girls" and she does not enjoy having to look up to them, in every sense. "Their bodies are bigger than mine and they've worked on themselves," Hingis said. "I have to be more clever and faster than them." Her tactical brain was never in doubt last year, but 12 months on, the spark has gone. "Sometimes when you're over-confident, you lose your focus," she said, although she also pointed out that a little

humiliation can sharpen the resolve. "It does bug me being No 2," she said. "Right now, Lindsay is better than me and I want to beat her. I don't have this feeling about anyone else. When you are used to being a champion, it's like a drug - you want to be there again and again. I haven't won a tournament since May and, believe me, it would be nice to walk away from 1998 with a win." Walking, however, seems to be an increasingly difficult task for many of the players after 11 months on the road. Venus Williams' knee served only to carry her out of the tournament before it had begun. Testud's knees are not much better. Novotná is getting over a bad back, Hingis is doing the same with her ankle while Stefie Graf, whose body appears to have been held together with string and Sello tape for the past few years, is coming back after wrist surgery. To make matters worse, she had to have treatment on her back while she was beating Davenport in the final of the WTA Tour event in Philadelphia on Sunday. Still, Graf is on a roll. She has won two consecutive tournaments since her return and last week trounced Hingis. By winning on Sunday, she became the first unseeded player to beat the world No 1 and No 2 in a week, not that Graf is your run-of-the-mill unseeded body. On the rare occasions this year when she has been fit enough to play, she has had the better of Davenport, her possible semi-final opponent, beating her on the way to the title in New Haven during the summer as well as on Sunday. She opens her account today against Novotná. For Graf, at least, after a year of sitting on the sidelines, the holidays can wait - it is time for battle to commence.

RANKINGS
Tim Henman has climbed a place to No 9 in the world rankings, equalling his highest placing. Greg Rusedzki remains at No 11. **WOMEN'S WORLD RANKINGS:** 1, S. Pierce (USA) 3,702 pts; 2, M. Hingis (Sui) 3,670; 3, P. Sanchez-Vicario (Spain) 3,215; 4, A. Sánchez Vicario (Spain) 2,876; 5, J. Novotná (Cze) 2,572; 6, L. Davenport (USA) 2,557; 7, K. Pierce (USA) 2,272; 8, S. Testud (FRA) 2,251; 9, S. Graf (Ger) 2,137; 10, G. Rusedzki (USA) 2,114; 11, A. Cornet (FRA) 1,823; 12, M. Pierce (USA) 1,732; 13, V. Williams (USA) 1,727; 14, J. McHale (USA) 1,710; 15, S. McHale (USA) 1,682; 16, J. Hantni (USA) 1,661.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Leaving the lap of luxury

Back to the Floor
BBC2, 9.00pm
The latest boss to experience life at his company's sharp end is Tony Pidgeley, a self-made multimillionaire whose wealth has come from building luxury homes. For the purposes of the film he goes to work in a building site, a £300 million development in Central London which must be finished in five days. Pidgeley happily rolls up his sleeves and wields a shovel but finds himself spending most of his time pacifying dissatisfied customers. A litany of complaints, from windows difficult to open, showers installed too high and toilets that won't flush, sends him to the customer care department. This comprises one man and a scruffy little office, so different from the glossy sales suite. Those of us with our own aftercare horror stories must wish that more Pidgeleys would return to the shop floor.



Verge, a self-confessed old-fashioned man, features in Men at 50 (Channel 4, 9pm)

Cutting Edge: Men At 50
Channel 4, 9.00pm
Brian Hill's film is built around the thoughts and experiences of some of the 900 men born on the same day 50 years ago as the Prince of Wales. The group is so randomly chosen that almost the only thing in common apart from their birthdays is the fact that they will attend to the throne. Not that any of them admits to envying the Prince of Wales, particularly in having his future mapped out for him from the minute he was born. But Robin, for one, is entitled to wonder why life has treated him so badly. He was born with cerebral palsy, is bitter at being trapped inside a useless body and feels he has achieved so little in his 50 years compared with ordinary men. The others have more mixed tales to tell, but unlike the Prince of Wales they have been able to suffer private pain (a divorce, the loss of a loved one) away from the public gaze.

Young Person's Guide to Becoming a Rock Star
Channel 4, 10.00pm
Bryan Easley's drama of a Glasgow rock band continues a lively mixture of good jokes and well-aimed jibes at the music industry. And PC-watcher will note that there is more male nudity than female, not least when Jez (Ciaran McMenamin), the band's lead singer, embarks on a na-

ked guitar solo in full view not only of his new recruit, the delectable Fiona (Simone Lahbib), but most of the neighbourhood. The running gag about young Jez being musically less subsversive than his middle-aged, but still very heavy metal parents, continues to flourish, while the band's attempt to sack one manager and try to find themselves another is rousingy plotted. Kirsty Wark makes the first of several celebrity cameos.

Wrappers
BBC2, 10.20pm
Breakfast cereals are the first topic for a series of ten-minute films exploring domestic life in Britain through popular brands. When today's average family has six boxes of cereal in the cupboard, it is hard to believe there was a time when the only breakfast was of the cooked variety. The programme is full of such information. Hands up who knew that ready-to-eat cereals were invented by doctors in American sanatoriums as a nutritious and easy to digest food for invalids? The first to cross the Atlantic was Force, with its Sunny Jim character and, anticipating later trends, free gifts of loyalty packs. Cereals took off in the 1950s, helped by the arrival of the supermarket, and packaging got brighter and stronger to attract the shopper's attention. The story is told through a brisk collage of advertisements, archive film and first-hand memories.
Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Wonderland Girls
Radio 4, 11.30am
A new series of the office comedy by Marianne Carey set in Edinburgh, where the wheels of the nation's mighty life assurance industry grind and clatter. There is more clatter than grind at Lothian Rock Investments, whose marketing department works to an interesting philosophy: betrayal, criminal activities, tragic death and serious misconduct... no heartbreak is so great that it can't be turned into a unique selling opportunity. Fiona Bell, Gayanne Potter, Monica Gibb and Jenny Ryan star as the staff with a sceptical view of management policy. Part of the show's strength lies in its ever-widening plot horizons, which this week encompass the arrival of everyone from management consultants to a charismatic New Age guru.

Afternoon Play: The Wrong Side of the River
Radio 4, 3.15pm
Start of a trilogy of plays, running until Thursday, written by Mary Cooper and Peter Spafford and set on either side of a river in northern England, the water having a symbolic role in all three plays. The main characters are Carol and her daughter Kate (Lesley Nicol and Sarah Brigham), who live together one side of the river, and Jack (Geoff Hunslet), who is Carol's father and who lives on the south bank. Today's play, *Mudlark*, is Kate's story and concerns the tensions that arise between mother and daughter when Carol and Kate are forced to leave their home and return to Jack's side of the river. The teenage Kate rises to the challenge but Carol feels increasingly excluded by her daughter's independent lifestyle.
Peter Barnard

RADIO 1 (BBC)
6.30am Zoe Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Kevin Greening 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce, Chart 6.00 The Evening Session 10.00 Dragnet 10.10 John Peel 12.00 The Breakfast Show 2.00am Dave Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

BBC WORLD SERVICE
6.00am The World Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off The Shelf 7.30am News 8.00 Chart 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Concert Hall 9.00 News 9.49 (only) News in German 9.55 West 101 John Peel 9.55 To Be Continued 9.30 Plays in Focus: School for Scandal 9.45 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 On Screen 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 The Idea of the City 11.45 News 12.00pm World Business Today 12.30 Britain Today 12.30 Health Matters 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Matchcast Hit List 3.00 News, (6.48 only) News in German 3.05 Sports Round-Up 3.15 Westway 3.30 The Evening Session 4.00 News 4.15 (6.48 only) News in German 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Service Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 One Planet (6.48 only) News in German 7.00 News Summary 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 Megames 8.00 Newsdesk 8.05 News 8.15 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Mendenhall 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Insight 10.45 Sports Round-Up 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Megames 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30pm Early Versions 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 Discovery 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Meridian Live 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Round-Up 3.30 One Planet 4.00 The World Today

RADIO 2 (BBC)
6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Richard Ainsworth 12.00 John Inverdale 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Jeremy Walker 7.00 Maria Casarripa World 7.00 8.00 Nigel Ogden, News from the keyboard world 9.00 Right Monkey, Profile of Al Read, featuring his classic radio outlines and interviews 10.00 Cole Porter: Night and Day (12/7) 10.30 Nicky Howe 12.00 Katrina Leskanich 2.00am Alex Lester

CLASSIC FM
6.00am Mick Baley's Easter Breakfast, soothing music and information updates, 8.00 Henry Jekyll, The Hall of Fame and Record of the Week 12.00 Lunchtime Requests, Jane Jones introduces listeners' favourite 2.00pm Concerto, Prokofiev (Violin Concerto No 2 in G minor) 3.00 Jamie Cuck, Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romances 4.00 Newsnight, updates, with John Burningham 7.00 Soundwaves, Wagner's Ring cycle. Stunning introductions, classical sounds 9.00 Evening Concert, Sibelius (Prelude Celebrations Music), Wagner (Parsifal Prelude to Act 1), Schubert (Symphony No 7 in C), Paganini (Massa Capriccio, No. 11) 11.00 Britain's Best Music brought to the small hours 2.00am Concerto(s) 3.00 Mark Griffiths, with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)
6.00am Morning Reports 8.00 Breakfast with Julian Worraker and Victoria Derbyshire 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ruocco and Co 4.00 Dave 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Tuesday Match, Russell Fuller presents coverage of the night's action 10.00 Nicky Howe Live with Nick Robinson 1.00am Up All Night with Fred Sharp

VIRGIN
6.30am Jonathan Ross 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Bobby Han 7.30 Janet Scott 10.00 Mark Forrest 1.00am James Merritt 4.30 Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO
6.00am Bill Overton 8.00 The Breakfast Show 9.00 Scott Chandler 11.00 Alan Arno 12.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Daley 7.00 Nick Abbot 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night

RADIO 3
4.00 Voices with Ian Burnsidge (1)
4.45 Music Machine: The composer John Woolrich talks to Verity Sharp about his new cello concerto
5.00 In Tune with Sean Rafferty, including a report from Adelaide as Jeffrey Talle conducts the first Australian production of Wagner's Ring cycle
7.45 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century) Live from the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, continuing a season of chamber recitals. Introduced by Linda Omlie. Peter Donohoe and Martin Roscoe, pianos. Arensky (Suite No 1 in F, Op 15); Tchaikovsky, transcr Rachmaninov (Sleeping Beauty) 8.20 Auditory and Other Diversions: Four interval programmes in which novelist Tim Parks reads from his new collection of essays 8.40 Remsky-Korsakov (Scheherazade)
8.40 Postscript: The Man with a Gun (2/2)
10.05 BBC Symphony Orchestra (Sounding the Century) Conductor Oliver Kruse, with Valdie Anderson, soprano, Berg (Suite: Lulu)
10.45 Night Waves: Richard Coles explores the history of music censorship and its existence today
11.30 Jazz Notes: Alvin Shipton presents the first of two programmes featuring Carol Kidd in performance
12.00am Composer of the Week: Debussy (1)
1.00 Through the Night with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4
6.30am World News 6.35 Shipping Forecast 6.40 Inshore Forecast 6.45 Prayer for the Day 6.47 Farming Today with Charlotte Smith 6.00 Today Introduced by Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie. Including Thought for the Day, with Aleksandr Dae
6.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
8.00 The Choice Michael Buerk profiles people who've made momentous decisions
8.30 First Night: Sara Parker profiles a woman determined to fulfil her lifelong ambition to become a trapeze artist
8.45 (LW) Daily Service
8.45 (FM) Series: Alfie Cook: A Celebration
10.00 (LW) Nature: Bees in the Desert Gemy Northam traces the history and conservation of bees in Arizona's Sonora Desert (1)
11.30 Wonderland Girls: Comedy drama following the departmental dilemmas in an Edinburgh insurance company, by Marianne Carey. See Choice (1/5)
12.00 (FM) News
12.00pm You and Yours: Trine Rawlinson and Mark Whittaker present consumer investigations
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Quote - Unquote: Bill Cotton, Alison Mitchell, Peter Nichols and Simon Williams pt their wit in the question panel game. Chaired by Nigel Rees
2.00 The Archers (1)
2.15 The Wrong Side of the River: The first of three plays by Mary Cooper and Peter Spafford, with Geordie Henney, Nicholas and Sarah Brigham. See Choice (1/3)
3.00 The Exchange Call 0171-580 4444
3.30 Reversal: Ian Pascock asks whether revenge should ever be seen as divine retribution (2/3)

SUTTER HOME
CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY
Perfect with soy-braised sea bass & wilted pak choi.

PAUILLAC
Claret produced in Pauillac. Pauillac is the name of a commune in the department of the Gironde in France. It produces a superior claret.

ROGUER
A person employed to identify and eliminate inferior plants in a crop, especially of potatoes. A rogue potato is the same metaphor as a rogue elephant.

PECORINO
An Italian cheese made from ewes' milk. Pecorina is the Italian for sheep.

PONDOK
A hut or shack made of oddments of wood, corrugated iron, etc. A mean house or hovel, especially one inhabited by non-whites. The Afrikaans word, from the Malay.

ANSWER TO WINNING MOVE
1 Rxe5! fxe5; 2 Rxd5+! Kg7 (2... Bxd5; 3 Qf6 mate); 3 Qf6+ Kh7; 4 Qh4+ Kg7; 5 Ne6 checkmate.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up of 46.03% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

SUTTER HOME CALIFORNIA WINES. They don't need food to make sense.

SUTTER HOME
CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY
Perfect without soy-braised sea bass & wilted pak choi.

فَكَذِّبْنَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

...ere di



RUGBY UNION 53

Henry keeps faith with Wales team to face Argentina

San Francisco prove easy prey for Atlanta Falcons



TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17 1998

Hoddle ready to pair experienced duo at Wembley
Dublin defies age concern

By OLIVER HOIT FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
A PANOPLY of bright yellows and startling oranges decorated the training grounds at Bisham Abbey yesterday...



Dublin, marked by Sol Campbell in a training match yesterday, seems likely to lead the England attack against the Czech Republic.

who is constantly cajoling and encouraging, who has the maturity and stature that many of his peers lack, deserves the chance to establish himself as an international after years of striving to better himself at the margins of the game.

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McCoy given cane by Jockey Club

TONY MCCOY, for thousands of betting shop punters the complete National Hunt jockey, was yesterday banned for 18 days and sent back to school as punishment for excessive use of the whip.



McCoy: back to school

McCoy has been sufficiently upset by the stewards' disapproval to have spoken angrily, if without much conviction, of bringing his phenomenal career to a premature close.

CHAMPION'S WHIP BANS
April 4, Aintree: Banned for four days, later extended to six after an appeal, for using his whip with 'excessive force' when riding Briddwell to victory in the Meriel Antrre Hurdle.

TWO CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-24. Below grid is 'No 1565'

- ACROSS
1 Acid (pronunciation) test (Judges) 12 (10)
9 Comparison drawing similarity (7)
10 Turn round rapidly (5)
11 Ploughed money drawer (4)
12 Substance providing sustenance (8)
14 Lab vessel; quip (6)
15 Fragrant resin; a soother (6)
18 Amicable (8)
20 Shoot sack (4)
22 Centre/circumference lines (5)
23 Holy Land Sea (7)
24 Instinct (5,5)
DOWN
2 Animal's foot (4)
3 Norman tapestry town (6)
4 Sudden (bad) eruption (8)
5 Banishment (5)
6 (House) with exposed beams (4,8)
7 A university degree (6,2,4)
8 Straw mattress; goods-stacking frame (6)
13 Shake triumphantly, threateningly (8)
16 Protect (6)
17 Contagious, deadly disease (6)
19 Alphabetical guide (5)
21 Charitable gift (4)

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP
NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE
The Times Crossword Book £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2 £2.99...

Crawley is assaulted by drunkard

TOURING Australia has always presented England cricketers with the ultimate test of temperament on the field, but the abuse traditionally stops there. In Cairns, late on Sunday night, John Crawley fell foul of a different type of attack...

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN CAIRNS
and the Queensland players, and was set upon by what the management yesterday called 'an unknown assailant'.



Crawley: a need, perhaps, for head protection off the pitch

hick-town reputation means that it is not the most comfortable place to be on a weekend night. Gangs roam the streets and stories abound of attacks on innocent pedestrians.

Wimbledon announces record profit

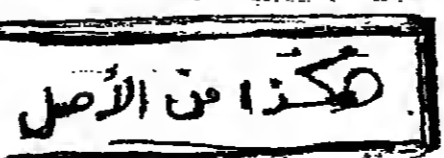
WIMBLEDON has announced record profits of £33 million for 1998—a rise of 6.7 per cent on the 1997 figures. The money, which is donated to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) for the improvement of the British game, was due to increased television and merchandising income...

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at the championships, especially featuring Henman and Greg Rusedski, who had to pull out of the tournament because of injury.

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don to the world group of the Davis Cup. Britain had also won the European men's team championship for the first time in 30 years.

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